

## Princess Caroline's husband dies

MONTE CARLO (R) — The husband of Princess Caroline of Monaco was killed in a power boat accident on Wednesday, the second tragedy in eight years to hit the royal family of this tiny Mediterranean principality. Stefano Casiraghi, a 30-year-old Italian businessman, was killed instantly when his 15-metre boat Pinot di Pinot overturned during a race near the resort of Saint-Jean-Cap-Ferrat. He was trapped beneath the hull. Casiraghi was defending his title of world offshore champion when his boat, which could reach a top speed of 180 kilometres per hour, overturned after hitting a wave. Princess Caroline has had three children since the couple married 1983, one year after her mother, Princess Grace, was killed in a car crash.

Volume 15 Number 4512

# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

جordan Times يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية العربية (الرأي)

## Mubarak, Fahd cable King

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday received a cable of good wishes from Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak on the occasion of the Prophet Mohammad's birthday. The cable wished the King continued health and happiness and further progress for the Jordanian people. The King also received a cable from King Fahd of Saudi Arabia in reply to one he had sent to the Saudi monarch on his country's national day. Fahd thanked the King for his cable of good wishes and wished the King continued health and happiness and further progress for the Jordanian people.

## Kaifu arrives, stresses peace option in Gulf

Japanese premier holds talks with Crown Prince and Badran, meets Ramadan today

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter with agency dispatches

AMMAN — Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu flew into Amman Wednesday on a visit which assumed a higher political dimension with a surprise announcement that he would be meeting a senior Iraqi leader here for talks on the Gulf crisis.

In talks he held with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haasan and a subsequent address at a dinner hosted by Prime Minister Muqrin Badran, Kaifu underlined his country's desire for a diplomatic/political settlement to the Gulf crisis, triggered by Iraq's

invasion of Kuwait Aug. 2.

The confirmation that Kaifu would also be meeting Taha Yassin Ramadan, number three in the Iraqi hierarchy, came from Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, who, in comments to reporters after talks with the Japanese premier in Cairo earlier in the day, also expressed hope that the encounter in Amman would produce fruitful results towards resolving the Gulf crisis. Ramadan, first deputy prime minister of Iraq, was expected to fly to Amman late Wednesday, sources said.

According to a Japanese spokesman, the meeting was re-

quested by Iraq and Japan accepted. It would be the first top-level contact between Iraq and Japan after Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait.

The Japanese ambassador to Jordan, Tadayuki Nonoyama, has said that Kaifu was not carrying any new ideas to resolve the Gulf crisis.

In his meeting with the Crown Prince, Kaifu affirmed that Japan was taking a careful foray into efforts to seek a diplomatic solution to the crisis. The Jordan News Agency, Petra, quoted him as saying that Tokyo would pursue endeavours to find a peace

settlement in the Gulf.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan holds talks with Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu (center)

The prime minister stressed the need for a diplomatic solution to the crisis based on United Nations principles, Petra said.

He also told Prince Hassan of Japan's intention to extend urgent assistance in Jordan to help the kingdom overcome economic difficulties resulting from the Gulf crisis. Prince Hassan outlined the problems Jordan is facing as a result of the Gulf crisis and the imposition of mandatory United Nations sanctions against Iraq.

the agency said.

Kaifu, who pledged in Cairo to grant Egypt an emergency commodity loan worth \$300 million to help Egypt cope with the impact of the Gulf crisis, is expected to make a similar commitment in Amman, but no specific figures were available.

Japanese officials accompanying Kaifu said Egypt was also to get a development loan of \$100 million.

(Continued on page 5)

## United Germany pledges to work for world peace

Combined agency dispatches

BERLIN — Germany's leaders Wednesday marked the historic unification by assuring the world their united country will work for peace and never forget their responsibility for World War II.

Random violence in nearly a dozen cities marred the unity celebrations overnight. About 15,000 leftists protesting the merger rallied Wednesday afternoon in Berlin's working-class district of Kreuzberg, and numerous shooting matches with police broke out.

The nation was less than 12 hours old when Chancellor Helmut Kohl and President Richard von Weizsaecker made their assurances of peace.

"Our country, with its regained national unity, will work for peace in the world and promote European unity," Kohl said in a message sent to all the governments of the world. It was his first foreign policy declaration since becoming Chancellor of the united country at midnight.

"At the same time, we stand by our moral and legal responsibilities that arise from German history," Kohl added.

Von Weizsaecker spoke of Germany's "historic responsibility" stemming from the war.

"The Nazi terror and the war it caused inflicted untold serious injustice and suffering on almost all of Europe and on us," von Weizsaecker said at a formal ceremony in the Berlin Philharmonic Hall. "We continuously recall the victims."

The 70-year-old head of state, whose insistence that Germans re-

member the catastrophe of Hitler's Third Reich won him widespread support, said Germany wants "to serve world peace in a united Europe."

The statements were meant to calm fears about the mighty new Germany with 78 million people in the centre of Europe. Despite repeated German denials, many Europeans fear the new country will supplant the Soviet Union as a superpower and dominate the continent.

The world showered congratulations on Germany Wednesday for its rebirth as a united country.

But many referenced to the previous experience with Germany as the dominant power in Europe showed that the past is still not quite forgotten.

Israel Radio said Kohl "expressed the hope that united Germany will

(Continued on page 5)

## Hrawi rejects French 'threat'

ANTELIAS, Lebanon (Agencies) — France stopped issuing visas to Lebanese Wednesday, apparently because of President Elias Hrawi's refusal to lift a blockade intended to starve General Michel Aoun from his enclave in Lebanon's Christian heartland.

The report by the communist-run Voice of the People radio station came as emotional funeral services were held in this coastal town and other villages for 30 victims killed at a candlelight vigil supporting Aoun Monday.

Grief-stricken women bared themselves on the coffins of husbands and sons while mourners bade the Vatican a final memento for his failure to attend the funeral. Church bells tolled throughout the enclave.

A French embassy source confirmed the suspension of visas. The blockade made it impossible for foreign officials to commute between the two embassy branches to complete visa formalities, said the source.

French Ambassador René Ala

Monday conveyed to Hrawi France's displeasure with the blockade, saying it would hurt the enclave's population of 150,000 more than Aoun and his 150,000 mainly Christian soldiers, the Voice of the People report said.

Aia told Hrawi the French government might close its embassy in west Beirut if Hrawi failed to lift the siege, but Hrawi "flatly rejected the French demand and threat," the report said.

Aia drove from Hrawi's west Beirut residence to the French embassy office in the Christian suburb of Hazmieh in Aoun's zone, where he usually stays, but was forced to get out of his car and walk across the 300-metre mid-city museum crossing with his French bodyguards, the radio report said.

Aia later left abruptly for Paris, it

## Iraq offers to free all French nationals Mitterrand visits Gulf

Combined agency dispatches

AMMAN — Iraq freed nine French nationals on Wednesday and a mediator said Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein would consider freeing all Frenchmen if a senior French politician visited Baghdad.

The Frenchmen, released in what Iraq called a humanitarian gesture, were accompanied to Jordan by members of a Franco-Iraqi friendship group which had been visiting Baghdad.

"The Iraqis are willing to consider releasing all French hostages if a top official from the government or the opposition goes to Iraq," Gilles Munier, head of the friendship group, told reporters.

A few hours after the arrival of the French team in Amman, President Francois Mitterrand flew to the Gulf to meet regional leaders and inspect French troops, marking the first visit to the region by a Western leader who has stationed forces there.

An Air France Concorde carrying Mitterrand took off from Charles de Gaulle-Roissy airport for Abu Dhabi shortly after a cabinet meeting Wednesday.

The French leader will meet with rulers of the small Gulf state and inspect the 300-man squadron of the 1st paratroop regiment of Hussars sent there in August, the presidential palace confirmed in a communiqué.

Mitterrand will hold a press conference Thursday aboard the frigate Duplex. He then travels to Saudi Arabia for talks with King Fahd and to inspect French forces at the Red Sea port of Yanbu.

Commander-in-chief of the armed forces, Mitterrand is accompanied by Defense Minister Jean-Pierre Chevenement, army Chief of Staff General Maurice Schmit and Foreign Minister Roland Dumas.

In Amman, Mitterrand said the release of the Frenchmen, who include three Muslims from Madagascar, was a peace message from Iraq after a speech by Mitterrand at the United Nations.

Iraq said Mitterrand's four-stage

(Continued on page 5)

## Israel secures U.S. housing loan guarantee

TEL AVIV (R) — Foreign Minister David Levy returned to Israel Wednesday with \$400 million in U.S. loan guarantees for immigrant housing but dodged questions about what he had to promise Washington in exchange for the aid.

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker said Tuesday the loan guarantees were given after Israel gave unprecedented and wide-ranging assurances it would not settle Soviet Jewish newcomers in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Baker implied that Israel promised for the first time not to settle Soviet Jews in Arab Jerusalem.

Such a commitment would provoke outrage not only in Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's right-wing Likud party but among the vast majority of Israelis who view Jerusalem as the Jewish state's "indivisible capital."

Diplomatic sources said Hrawi now seemed increasingly likely to order an attack to topple Aoun. They blamed Monday's killing on the Lebanese Forces militia allied with Aoun in

assurances Israel gave Baker, an indignant Levy said: "Why don't you ask what they requested and what they got? There were demands that were unacceptable and these were rejected outright."

More than 100,000 Soviet Jews have arrived in Israel this year in a wave of immigration unleashed by free Soviet emigration policy and tighter U.S. immigration quotas. One million Soviets are expected through 1992, swelling Israel's population by a fifth.

"We have no policy of directing new immigrants to the (West Bank) and Gaza," Levy said. "This obligation was given by the prime minister in writing to President Bush."

He added that Israel at times reported to Washington about Jewish settlement activity.

Shamir and hardline Housing Minister Ariel Sharon, both advocates of permanent Israeli control of the occupied territor-

## Saddam Hussein visits Kuwait

Combined agency dispatches

IRAQI PRESIDENT Saddam Hussein visited Kuwait Wednesday, meeting with military commanders and a number of officials appointed by Baghdad to govern Kuwait, the Iraqi News Agency (INA) said.

It was the Iraqi leader's first visit to what Baghdad now calls Iraq's 19th province since Aug. 2 invasion.

Saddam also met with Iraqi troops "and talked to the fighters who confirmed their ever-readiness for sacrifice for Iraq and the Arab Nation and defeating all evil attempts to desecrate our sacred land," said the news agency.

The commentary said air power would not achieve victory against Iraq.

Recalling U.S. losses in Vietnam, Baghdad Radio said that the small country survived the heaviest air attacks in modern history and taught the Americans an unforgettable lesson.

Iraq has some 430,000 troops in or close to Kuwait, backed by 3,500 tanks.

They are confronted by a multinational force of over 300,000 Western and Arab troops backed by 700 warplanes, with dozens of fighting oil tankers.

Mr. Bush is telling the Americans that he and his allies are capable of inflicting quick strikes against their targets in Iraq and end the war they plan for in that way," the radio said.

"But Bush has to tell his people what almost all military strategists agree upon — air power has never decided the outcome of a war for the United States...

So the Americans are obliged in fight on the ground if they want to lead a war, thus facing a well-equipped and war-hardened Iraqi army... demanding greater sacrifices and bigger losses."

INA gave no further details of the visit, and did not say whether Saddam had returned to Baghdad.

Morocco's ambassador to Paris said Wednesday Saddam has no intention of making himself a martyr and Iraq's takeover of Kuwait can form the subject of negotiations.

But Yousef Ben Abbes, briefing reporters after a visit to Iraq by an envoy of Morocco's King Hassan, said that Iraq would never approve the return to power of the emir of Kuwait.

The annexation of Kuwait can be discussed and negotiated, notably a better access to the sea, joint oil exploitation and cancelling the Iraqi debt. President Saddam Hussein has no intention to sacrifice himself to be a martyr," Ben Abbes said.

Morocco has sent 1,000 troops to the Gulf zone as part of the international U.S.-led force.

Ben Abbes said Iraq wanted to avoid losing face, adding that its adversaries were divided, with some countries wanting to destroy it and others seeing their role as protecting Saudi Arabia from aggression.

The ambassador was speaking after a visit to Baghdad by Paris Foreign Minister Roland Dumas.

Iraq said Mitterrand's four-stage

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued on page 5)

ity can no longer play for time on the Palestinian problem," he added.

He praised recent contacts by Western leaders that a diplomatic solution to the Gulf crisis could take in wider Middle East issues, as demanded by Iraq.

Iraq has warned the United States and its Gulf allies to expect carnage and coffins in any war against the battle-hardened Iraqi army.

"Thousands of Americans and allied troops will perish in an alien land and will go back to their countries in coffins," Baghdad Radio said late Tuesday.

The commentary said air power would not achieve victory against Iraq.

Recalling U.S. losses in Vietnam, Baghdad Radio said that the small country survived the heaviest air attacks in modern history and taught the Americans an unforgettable lesson.

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(Continued on page 5)

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## King receives message from Gorbachev

## Jordan shares Soviet views against use of force in Gulf

Arafat to meet Primakov, says no new initiative

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter with agency dispatches

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday emphasised Jordan's keenness on reaching a political settlement to the Gulf crisis and other Middle East issues and said Amman shared the Soviet view that military force should not be used to settle regional or international disputes.

The King was speaking during a meeting at the Royal Court with a senior Soviet envoy, Yevgeny Primakov, who delivered to him a message from

## One million may die of starvation in Sudan, UNICEF official warns

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — An advancing drought in Sudan could kill up to a million people, and donor countries have not responded to calls by relief agencies for help, a U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) official said Tuesday.

"I think we have the makings of a major humanitarian disaster, a bombshell disaster, that hasn't caught the attention of the world," said Richard Reid, UNICEF's regional director for the Middle East and North Africa.

Four million to five million southern Sudanese are threatened by the drought, which is worse than the one that killed about 250,000 in 1988. Major crop-growing areas have not had rain for more than two months, he said.

"It is probable that unless there is focused and solid and rapid intervention, we could lose at least 250,000, and it could go up to the estimated one million that died in 1984," he said.

Last year, Operation Lifeline Sudan, with UNICEF as the lead agency, saved over 200,000 lives when a similar drought gripped Sudan, but this year few donor countries have been offering help.

Last year, UNICEF collected about \$67 million for the relief

campaign. This year, it has collected less than \$5 million, Reid said.

Diplomats said privately that distaste for the military junta of Omar Hassan Al Bashir, which seized power from the elected government of Sadeq Al Mahdi last year, is a major reason donations have dried up.

U.S. laws cut off foreign aid to military junta that ousted elected governments.

An ongoing civil war between the Islamic government in Khartoum and the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) in the south has cut off the delivery of relief supplies to half the country.

Reid said railroad engineers, barge boatmen, and truck drivers were afraid to carry grain shipments through the southern provinces without security guarantees that relief agencies can provide.

Last year, Operation Lifeline Sudan had almost 20 truck drivers killed by bandits and rustlers, he said.

The takeover by Bashir created further bureaucratic problems because his military government appointed new officials in key ministries, such as transportation.

Bashir has announced a ceasefire with the guerrillas through

the end of the year so children can be vaccinated.

Bashir is to meet with Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar Wednesday to discuss the situation. The U.N. secretariat is the lead agency organising Operation Lifeline Sudan.

Last year both the rebels and government suspended hostilities along "corridors of tranquility" to let over 100,000 tons of food and other supplies reach all parts of the country.

Operation Lifeline Sudan was the first time the participants in a war or rebellion have agreed to suspend hostilities so supplies could reach the civilian population.

Bashir Tuesday announced a three-month ceasefire with the southern rebels so children in his country could be vaccinated and offered to make the truce permanent.

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## Lebanon criticises 'double standard' in U.N. resolutions

UNITED NATIONS (R) —

Lebanon said Tuesday there was a "double standard" in applying Security Council resolutions, because while the world body acted swiftly against Iraq, a 12-year-old resolution demanding withdrawal of Israeli troops from Lebanon had never been implemented.

Hoss urged the world body to impose economic sanctions against Israel, saying "... there must be no double standard of international justice."

He also raised the issue of Palestinian self-determination, calling it the "most rudimentary of human rights," and called on the U.N. to take immediate action against Israel for its occupation of Arab territories.

"The records of the United Nations are replete with resolutions relevant to the question of Palestine. Isn't it time for the international organisation to take decisive and effective measures in order to compel Israel, the aggressor state, to heed its resolutions on this question," he asked.

## MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

### Egypt says 'saboteurs' held

CAIRO (AP) — A number of Arab saboteurs sent to Egypt following its opposition to the Aug. 2 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait have been arrested, Egypt's top security official said. Interior Minister Abdul Halim Musa said the saboteurs were arrested before going into action. He said they belonged to three unnamed Arab countries.

In a statement in the state-owned newspaper Al Gomhouria, Musa said weapons and ammunition were found in their possession but gave no further details. But the newspaper said the saboteurs were arrested in Cairo and Alexandria. Al Wafid newspaper, organ of an opposition party with the same name, said Tuesday the saboteurs are Palestinians and Iraqis. It said they are members of an Iraqi organisation run by the Iraqi ruling Baath Party.

Musa however said without elaboration that the rate of political crimes, particularly that of Muslim fundamentalists, has dropped following the Gulf crisis because of the lack of financial support from abroad. He gave no figures. In another statement in Al Ahram, another state-owned daily, Musa said there are currently 670 Muslim extremists among 1,554 Egyptian detainees in Egyptian prisons. Musa told Al Ahram that the other 884 were detained for involvement in drug smuggling and dealing illegally in hard currency. An emergency law in force since the assassination of President Anwar Sadat Oct. 6, 1981 gives the government exceptional powers in detaining people without judicial authorisation.

"But, if Iraq refuses to listen to what the entire world is virtually saying to it, then it's going to be very difficult, indeed, to see how we can settle this, either quickly or peacefully," he added.

"I would really say that the choice is Iraq's, and more specifically, given the nature of their political process, the choice is Saddam's," Musa stressed.

The United States has worked hard with countries in the United Nations, he said, "to build a policy of economic sanctions in order to deny Iraq and Saddam the fruits of their aggression and to try to create a situation where, with time, they would be persuaded to withdraw... to go back home and to allow the legitimate government of Kuwait to once again enjoy its rightful place. That is our policy."

Citing "president Bush's remarks" at the United Nations General Assembly on October 1, Haass said, "If this doesn't work, or if Iraq forces something else on us, then we as said all along, as the President of the United States said (to) the Emir of Kuwait as recently as last Friday (September 28), we would then have to review our options."

Haas noted that, ironically, out of the tragedy of Kuwait has come the rebirth of the United Nations as an instrument for conflict resolution. "What I think we've seen in the last couple of months is the possibility that for the first time, the United Nations might be approaching a point where (it) can actually begin to avoid conflicts or to settle conflicts that have begun. And that is the great hope," Haas said.

"I think there's universal recognition that Iraq needs to be stopped here. I think, also, a lot of it has to do with the changed policy coming out of the Soviet Union, and I think Moscow deserves a lot of credit for reducing the ideological component of the United Nations."

Acknowledging that it is too soon to draw any hard conclusions about the effectiveness of the United Nations, Haas said, "We're not out of this yet — the test for the United Nations and for the world community is still ongoing — but I would say: So far, so good."

## U.S. Senate backs Bush but makes no commitment

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The U.S. Senate has expressed overwhelming support for President George Bush's handling of the Gulf crisis so far but senators said they were not giving him a blank cheque to go to war.

The Senate, by a vote of 96-3, passed a resolution approving Bush's role in winning the U.N. economic embargo against Iraq and sending U.S. forces to Saudi Arabia and the Gulf to enforce the embargo and prevent further Iraqi attack.

The resolution also approved "confined action by the president... to deter Iraqi aggression and to protect American lives and vital interests in the region," but only in accordance with U.N. decisions and congressional approval.

## Ben Bella organises conference on Gulf crisis

ALGIERS (R) — A week after his return from exile, former Algerian President Ahmad Ben Bella is organising a pan-Arab conference in Algiers to support the Iraqi people and discuss a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis.

Mohand Alt Hocine, a close associate and leader of the National Liberation Front who Ben Bella was president from 1962 to 1965, told Reuters the Oct. 11 conference would draw opposition leaders from around the Arab World.

He did not say who planned to attend but added Ben Bella was trying to achieve maximum support from opposition figures and Algerian political parties.

"This will be a meeting of support for the Iraqi people to discuss a peaceful solution," he said. "We must absolutely avoid war. That is what Ben Bella is working for."

Ben Bella, 73, returned from exile last Thursday to launch a political comeback 25 years after he was ousted in a coup.

In his first speech to Algerians since 1965 he urged them to enrol to help defend Iraq in the event of war with the United States. He has called on Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait, but only in the context of international talks on all regional problems.

Air Hocine said Ben Bella was holding his first "discreet" talks with Algerian political leader toward his goal of constituting a "democratic front."

On his return last Thursday Ben Bella called for a restructuring of the political landscape. Nearly 30 parties have been legalised before the first free parliamentary elections set for early next year.

## U.S. minesweepers arrive in Gulf

DAHHRAN (R) — Four U.S. minesweepers arrived in the Gulf Tuesday, the U.S. navy said. A navy spokesman said the minesweepers, Adroit, Leader, Impervious and Avenger, which were carried to the waterway by the Dutch heavy lift ship Super Servant III, were due to begin operating immediately. The American aircraft carrier Independence also arrived in the Gulf Tuesday.

## Omani deputy premier flies to Moscow

NICOSIA (R) — Oman's deputy prime minister for financial and economic affairs left for Moscow Wednesday, the Omani News Agency reported. It said Qais Ben Abdul Monim Al Zawawi would discuss bilateral relations with Soviet officials. The official will deliver a message from Sultan Qaboos of Oman to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, the agency, received in Cyprus, added.

## REQUIEM MASS (The third, the ninth and 40th) For the late

### Farid Khalaf Al Nshewiat (Abu Maurice)

at 12 noon Friday Oct. 5, 1990 at the Greek Catholic Church, Jabal Amman.

The relatives of the late Mr. Al-Nshewiat, invite friends and acquaintances to attend the mass.

This is an invitation to all.

### MAY GOD BLESS HIS SOUL

## PROGRAMME ONE

16:30 ..... Kora .....  
16:40 ..... Programme review .....  
16:45 ..... Children programme .....  
17:10 ..... Book of Adventure .....  
18:00 ..... News summary .....  
18:10 ..... Local programme .....  
19:50 ..... Programme review .....  
20:00 ..... News in Arabic .....  
20:20 ..... Local series .....  
Programme review .....  
21:40 ..... Local programme .....  
22:20 ..... Arabic film .....  
22:30 ..... News in Arabic .....  
22:30 ..... Feature film

## WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Slight rise in temperatures will take place and winds will be northwesterly light to moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min/max. temp.

Aqaba ..... 15 / 30  
Aqaba ..... 22 / 35  
Deserts ..... 13 / 33

Jordan Valley ..... 20 / 35

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 28, Aqaba 22. Humidity readings: Amman 38 per cent, Aqaba 35 per cent.

## USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

### NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN: Dr. Suliman Al Khayat ..... 791880

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swieq Tel. 510740  
Assumption of God Church, Tel. 632785  
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.

PRAYER TIMES

04:10 ..... Fajr .....  
05:27 ..... (Sunrise) Dhuhr .....  
11:24 ..... Dhuhr .....  
14:46 ..... 'Asr .....  
17:22 ..... Magrib .....  
18:39 ..... Isha

## PROGRAMME TWO

### Molierissimo

18:40 ..... Des Chiffres et de lettres .....  
18:40 ..... News in French .....  
18:45 ..... Documentary .....  
19:20 ..... News in Hebrew .....  
19:45 ..... Variations .....  
20:00 ..... News in Arabic .....  
20:15 ..... Pride and Prejudice .....  
22:00 ..... News in English .....  
22:20 ..... Feature film

## PRAYER TIMES

### (Sunrise) Dhuhr

04:10 ..... Fajr .....  
05:27 ..... (Sunrise) Dhuhr .....  
11:24 ..... Dhuhr .....  
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17:22 ..... Magrib .....  
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## EMERGENCIES

### Civil Defence Department

661111 ..... Civil Defence Immediate

660341 ..... Civil Defence Emergency

199 ..... Rescue Police

192, 621111, 637777 ..... Fire Brigade

691228 ..... Blood Bank

77152 ..... Highway Police

845402 ..... Police Station

661111 ..... Public Security Department

661111 ..... Hotel Complaints

661176 ..... Price Complaints

## USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

### NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN: Dr. Suliman Al Khayat ..... 791880

## HOSPITALS

AMMAN: Hmeim Medical Centre ..... 813813/72  
Khalid Maternity, J. Amm ..... 644281/6  
Alich Maternity, J. Amm ..... 642441/2  
Jabel Amman Maternity ..... 642862  
Mahse, J. Amm ..... 636140  
Palestine, Shmeisani ..... 664171/4  
Shmeisani Hospital ..... 669131  
Umm Al-Jimal Hospital ..... 667157/9  
Al-Mansour Hospital ..... 667157/9  
The Islamic, Abdali ..... 666127/31  
Al-Ahli, Abdali ..... 664164/5

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661111 ..... Civil Defence Immediate

660341 ..... Civil Defence Emergency

199 ..... Rescue Police

192, 621111, 637777 ..... Fire Brigade

691228 ..... Blood Bank

77152 ..... Highway Police

845402 ..... Police Station

661111 ..... Public Security Department

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661176 ..... Price Complaints

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## HOSPITALS

AMMAN: Hmeim Medical Centre ..... 813813/72  
K

## HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

### Sri Lanka thanks Jordan

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday received a letter of appreciation and thanks from Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa for the care Sri Lankan nationals have received while passing through Jordan on their way home from Iraq and Kuwait. Premadasa lauded Jordan's noble role in alleviating the suffering of the evacuees and wished that His Majesty conveys his appreciation and thanks to all the Jordanian people. The letter was conveyed by the Sri Lankan minister of labour who was received by the King's Political Advisor Adnan Al Odeh at the Royal Court.

### Parliamentarians to form new bloc

AMMAN (Petra) — A new Lower House of Parliament bloc will be announced in a short period of time under the name of the Liberals Bloc, informed sources said Wednesday. The sources said the new bloc will include deputies Issa Al Koni, Ahmad Ibraheem, Jamal Khreishah, Saad Haddadin, Mohammad Abu Alim and Jamal Haddad. The bloc will hold a meeting within the coming few days after completing consultations with several parliamentarians to prepare a final formula that will include the goals and principles of the bloc, the sources said. The members expected to join the bloc were members of the House's National Bloc which seems to have an inside rift.

### Al Salt rally backs Iraqis

SALT (Petra) — Al Salt popular committee for the support of Iraq Tuesday organised a public rally to express solidarity with the Iraqi people. Speakers at the rally included Dr. Issa Mafanah, Dr. Abdullah Alayleh, Dr. Hamman Saeed among others. The speakers stressed the need for unifying the ranks of Arab people to confront foreign intervention in the region and the economic siege imposed on Iraq. They also called on Muslims to abide by the regulations of their religion and learn from the teachings of Prophet Mohammad. They affirmed that Iraq is not standing alone in the battlefield and that it would be backed by all the noblemen in the area extending from the Arab Gulf to the Atlantic Ocean.

### Japanese delegation leaves

AMMAN (Petra) — A Japanese parliamentary delegation Wednesday left Amman for Baghdad after a two-day visit to Jordan during which it was received by speakers and several members of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament. The delegation was seen off at the airport by Senator Husni Ayash and several officials.

## Jordanians flock to file for losses in Kuwait

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Labour's employment office in Amman Wednesday continued to receive hundreds of claims for losses incurred by Jordanians who have been working in Kuwait.

The Ministry of Labour had invited Jordanians who incurred material or financial losses as a result of the Iraqi takeover, to register at its offices in Jordan so that they can preserve their rights and also be entitled to social security benefits.

Economists estimate that Jordanians who worked in Kuwait have lost between \$4 billion and \$5 billion in abandoned savings, investments, property and wages.

At least 40,000 Jordanian workers in Kuwait are believed to have returned home with their families since the invasion.

About 150,000 Jordanians, mostly Palestinians, were working in Kuwait at the time of Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion. More than 650,000 Jordanians were believed to be working in other Gulf countries — Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Oman.

"About 1,000 people reported their claims to the ministry today," said Saleh Al Khaswneh, the ministry's secretary general. "The step is intended by the government to protect rights and interests of citizens."

He said the government has not put a time limit on filing the claims.

## NAF gives increased assistance

AMMAN (Petra) — The National Aid Fund (NAF) has extended JD 18,971 financial aid to 846 families in the last three months, NAF sources said. The sources added that the fund offered urgent assistance of JD 1,080 to 24 families in the same period.

The sources said the fund also financed in the same period 134 vocational rehabilitation projects for the amount of JD 157,418 as well as 34 physical rehabilitation cases which cost the fund JD 376.

According to the sources, the number of cases that received urgent financial assistance during the first half of 1990 reached 1,286 for a sum of JD 2,500,337, while the number of cases getting urgent assistance in the same period reached 41 receiving assistance of JD 4,920. NAF financed during the same period 121 vocational training projects for JD 107,030 and 26 physical rehabilitation cases which cost JD 7,324.

## UNDRO coordinator to review relief operation

AMMAN (Agencies) — The United Nations Disaster Relief Organisation (UNDRO) Coordinator Under-Secretary General Essaifi was due in Amman Wednesday to review with the Jordanian government and United Nations agencies relief efforts for displaced persons in Jordan as a result of the Gulf crisis.

His visit to the Kingdom comes amid criticism from a senior Indian official at lack of donations from Western governments. Since September, UNDRO has mobilised \$35 million mainly from Japanese contributions.

The office of the U.N. Disaster

## Symposium issues recommendations on water pollution

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Participants and organisers of an environmental pollution symposium dealing specifically with water pollution problems entitled "Water Pollution in Jordan: Causes and Effects" drew up the final recommendations of the one-day conference.

Both Jordanian and German environmental and water experts participated in drawing up the draft resolutions.

While water problems in the region are becoming more acute other nations have been able to systematically deal with their water problems. German participants told their Jordanian counterparts during the seminar.

The final draft listed recommendations to be followed by Jordan to protect its water resources and keep them clean.

The major recommendations were:

— The prevention of water pollution must begin at the source and must take into account the environment throughout all steps of water extraction.

— Adherence to specified requirements for safe extraction must be regularly and adequately checked by users (self check) and monitored by the authorities (state supervision).

— Strict requirements must be placed on discharges into a body of water, regardless of the quality of the body of water — this includes discharges into inland

water and coastal waters.

— More extensive requirements on waste water discharges, even leading to prohibition in certain cases, are to be practised when the protection of the body of water or its use requires these measures.

— The water quality must be monitored regularly by representative and internationally comparable measurements of suitable chemical, physical, and biological characteristics, and by means of key quality parameters, those with an integral function, and effective biological criteria, using a sufficiently dense network of measurement stations.

— Streams, rivers, and lakes, including river banks, must be preserved in a natural state or remodelled to make them more natural.

— Ground water may be extracted only when extractions have no adverse effect on the water table and fauna, and unless otherwise demanded by prevailing needs of the common good, or of the individual where they are in keeping with the common good.

— Ground water must be protected by preventive measures which satisfy the basic principle of concern and tackle the threats at source. Drinking-water extraction areas and other sensitive areas must be identified as such, and be subject to special requirements of protection.

— The quality of ground water must be checked systematically and assessed over a country as a whole.

## Only 21% of Jordanian drivers use seat belts

AMMAN (J.T.) — A seven-day survey conducted by the Royal Automobile Club (RAC) of Jordan revealed that only 21 per cent of drivers in the Kingdom use seat belts in violation of traffic regulations which entails paying fines.

A report about the survey said that the use of seat belts by drivers and front seat passengers of cars and light commercial vehicles had been steadily declining.

The original legislation that required the use of seat belts was introduced in 1983 but was allowed to lapse after only a short time, the report said. The regulations were reintroduced early in 1987 and are still in force, it added.

However, it is clear that there is a blatant abuse of the regulations by drivers and passengers coupled with a lack of enforcement by the concerned authority, the report pointed out.

The RAC said that it had to carry out the field survey in order to ascertain how many drivers were complying with the law at the present time.

To conduct the survey, the report said, the RAC elected a number of locations in urban and rural areas of Jordan to observe traffic flow and to count the numbers of drivers of cars and pickup trucks who were using the seat belts. The locations reflected traffic movement in all conditions at different times of the day and covered residential, commercial and industrial districts on main and secondary roads in urban and rural areas.

According to the survey conducted last month, a total of 7,738 vehicles were recorded and it was found that only 1,674 drivers used seat belts.

Females driving private cars accounted for the largest sector of those motorists who failed to use seat belts, followed by taxi drivers.

The report said that the vast majority of drivers failed to appreciate the importance of safety aspects from the proper usage of seat belts and continued to expose themselves to the risk of injury in the event of an accident which would otherwise be minimised if seat belts were used.

## Andalus camp blends hope, despair of Asian evacuees returning home

By Sana Atiyeh  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The first impression one gets at the Andalus evacuee camp is lines: The 300 tents neatly lined on the dirt ground, the evacuees lined up to get their rice, bread and yoghurt meal, washed clothes lined on the ropes of tents, and the longest line that carries the most hope... the line that leads home.

Looking exhausted, yet joyous, Asian evacuees lined up with their luggage to board the airconditioned buses heading for the airport where they would finally board the aircraft to return to their countries after weeks of surviving the deserts of Jordan.

The Andalus evacuee camp is the final transit point before their return home.

The majority of the Asians, mostly Bangladeshis, Sri Lankans and Indians, live in this camp for one or two days after coming from the Azraq camps near the Jordanian-Iraqi border.

For many, it was a "five-star" camp, as one Bangladeshi described it, comparing it with the Azraq camps in the middle of the Jordanian desert where they waited sometimes for weeks before their turns came up to fly home.

The nearest Asian refugee camp to Amman and the closer to

Queen Alia International Airport, the Andalus at midday witnessed excited faces anxious to board the buses that would take them to the airport. Whether or not this feeling of joy for going back to their countries as soon as possible would last is unknown.

Jordan said Tuesday that it would be unable to finance the transport of Asians in the financially-strained Kingdom. Unless the payment for transporting them was fulfilled, the evacuees could be stranded for longer weeks to come.

For the time being, having left their jobs in Kuwait and having spent weeks of waiting at other camps, the evacuees did not seem to care much anymore at the Andalus.

Wakkaram Pauaseeli, a Sri Lankan who worked in Kuwait as a housemaid, lived through 16 days at an Azraq camp and less than 24 hours at the Andalus.

Asked if she had a difficult time at the camp, she replied: "Never mind. Today I go back to Sri Lanka."

Although the Andalus was neatly organised and obvious hard effort was put into the camp's various facilities by Jordanian officials, messiness was evident.

Large trash bins were lined up all around the camp, but empty bottles, cans, uneaten food and

plastic containers littered the grounds. Zinc-roofed latrines were placed near the highway road where the smell of urine was mixed with the smell of cooked rice and vegetables. Water tanks with faucets also lined the highway as the evacuees filled their empty plastic containers or poured water over their bodies that were covered with colourfully-printed material.

The cleanest part of the camp was the shower rooms that were specially built with cement blocks and covered with green plastic curtains. They had been built for the women, according to an official at the camp, but have been untouched. The ladies preferred to bathe themselves from the water tanks near the road while fully-dressed, he said.

It appeared as though the sandstorms that hit the Kingdom last week had left their mark. The tops of the tents seemed brown at first sight, but at a closer look, one knows that they were originally white.

The number of evacuees fluctuate daily between 2,000 to 3,000 depending on the number of those who depart, according to

## WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

### EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Open studio and workshop for artist Samia Zaru displaying paintings, sculptures and hand-painted fabrics. Locations of 2nd Circle, opposite Rosenthal (9:30-1:30 and 3:30-6:30).
- ★ Archaeological exhibition entitled "Al Leijun — a Roman Fortress" at the Department of Antiquities' Registration and Research Centre, Jebel Amman.
- ★ Plastic art exhibition at the Jordan Plastic Art Association.
- ★ Plastic art exhibition by Jordanian artists Maha and Ahmad Al Syoof at the Royal Cultural Centre.

## Mark On Your Calendar! EXHIBITION

of fine handicrafts • weavings • quilts by

**Bani Hamida**

12 - 19 October, 1990

10 am - 9 pm

At the Abu Jaber Estate-Yadoudeh  
(adjacent to Kan Zaman, off airport highway)

**Save the Children project**



## Jordan and Italy hold economic discussions

AMMAN (J.T.) — Italian Ambassador to Jordan, Francesco de Courten, Wednesday led a team of Italian foreign ministry officials for talks with Jordanian counterparts on Italy's technical and financial assistance to Jordan.

Jordanian projects.

The talks came on the heels of a visit to Jordan by Italian Deputy Prime Minister Claudio Martelli, who said that Jordan has requested the European Community (EC) to differentiate between aid for Jordan and aid for the evacuees when considering the allocations of \$2 billion aid and soft loan package of which the Kingdom is one of the beneficiaries.

Toucan explained to the Italian team the present economic conditions in Jordan and their adverse impact on the national economy as a result of Jordan's implementation of U.N. sanctions against Iraq.

He said that Jordan was in dire need for assistance to both the private and the public sectors.

According to Petra, the Italian side voiced understanding of the general conditions in Jordan and the negative effects on the country resulting from the Gulf crisis.

Before the meeting, the Italian team toured a number of economic organisations and held talks with Jordanian private and public sector officials.

## Muslim Brotherhood sees tough work for government, parliament

AMMAN (J.T.) — The official spokesman for the Muslim Brotherhood in the Lower House of Parliament, Dr. Abdul Latif Arabiyat, believes that the postponement of the opening of the House's ordinary session until Nov. 17 would give the government sufficient time to deal with a number of procedural matters that became imperative as a result of the Gulf crisis.

The RAC said that it had to carry out the field survey in order to ascertain how many drivers were complying with the law at the present time.

To conduct the survey, the report said, the RAC elected a number of locations in urban and rural areas of Jordan to observe traffic flow and to count the numbers of drivers of cars and pickup trucks who were using the seat belts. The locations reflected traffic movement in all conditions at different times of the day and covered residential, commercial and industrial districts on main and secondary roads in urban and rural areas.

According to the survey conducted last month, a total of 7,738 vehicles were recorded and it was found that only 1,674 drivers used seat belts.

Females driving private cars accounted for the largest sector of those motorists who failed to use seat belts, followed by taxi drivers.

The report said that the vast majority of drivers failed to appreciate the importance of safety aspects from the proper usage of seat belts and continued to expose themselves to the risk of injury in the event of an accident which would otherwise be minimised if seat belts were used.

The House's incumbent speaker, Suleiman Arar, is seeking a second term and at least two other deputies, Laith Shbeihat and Atef Betoush, have nominated themselves for the post.

Various Parliament blocs were reported holding intensive consultations to nominate their candidates or to come to a consensus on the choice of a new speaker.

The Lower House members,

who were elected last November, ended their ordinary session March 27 and later convened in an extraordinary session which

ended in September.

In a late Wednesday announcement, Parliament Deputy Jamal Khreishah nominated himself as a candidate for the House's speakership on behalf of the National Bloc in Parliament.

At the Upper House, the Foreign Affairs Committee held a meeting Wednesday to discuss the Gulf crisis and its adverse effects on Jordan resulting from the implementation of the U.N. Security Council sanctions on Iraq.

According to the committee's rapporteur, Hamad Al Farhan, the committee also discussed the consequences of a Saudi Arabian ban on Gulf bound Jordanian trucks and the general economic conditions in Jordan.

Al Farhan said that the committee has recommended to the government to raise the subject of Soviet-Israeli relations at the upcoming Arab foreign ministers meeting.

area of land assigned for tobacco would be reduced to 15,000 dunums, down from 32,000.

The minister said that the plan was one of a series of measures approved by the Cabinet as an emergency effort to promote the agricultural sector in Jordan in the light of the current circumstances the country is now facing.

"All lands receiving at least 250 millimetres of rain water will have to be planted with cereals and other strategic crops and farmers will be allowed to grow

in Jordan in the local food processing industries.

The emergency plan, he said, will be carried out under the supervision of a special committee which will also study the production of certain badly needed crops for the local market.

## Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation  
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Editorial and advertising offices:

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University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

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## New offer by Iraq

DURING the extraordinary Arab summit conference which was held in Baghdad at the end of May this year, the Egyptian president, Mr. Hosni Mubarak, submitted a proposal for a Middle East treaty banning all mass destructive weapons in the region. The summit rejected the proposal, simply because a) Egypt had not consulted other Arab countries on the idea before-hand; b) such a treaty, to which Israel had to be a signatory, would have forced the Arabs to negotiate with their enemy on a matter other than the central problem, which is Palestine, thus diverting attention from that real issue and according Israel untimely recognition; and c) Iraq thought at the time that such a treaty would have removed from its hand a strong deterrent, in the form of its chemical and biological weapons, against potential Israeli aggression and designs.

All of that happened well before the invasion of Kuwait and the subsequent peace and war scenarios and plans which have made the question of scrapping Iraq's mass destructive (and other) weapons a matter of profound concern to the international community.

In the dramatic turn of events since then, however, Baghdad on Tuesday decided to take up that challenge anew and offered to free the whole Middle East from mass destructive weapons in the context of a regional agreement that would eliminate its chemical and biological arsenal provided that Israel's nuclear weapons are included in any such package deal.

This is indeed a new and solid offer that cannot and should not be dismissed by anybody. It is the last stage of French President Francois Mitterrand's peace plan for the Gulf and the Middle East which has shot up to prominence by the Iraqi offer.

Lest people forget it is Israel which has been stockpiling nuclear weapons for many years now. What the Iraqis are in effect telling the world is that international concern for the introduction of mass destructive weapons to this region should have been expressed and acted upon the day Israel started its nuclear programme. But he that as it may, time is still propitious to outlaw those weapons provided that the international community gets Israel to relinquish its monopoly on the possession of mass destructive weapons. If the West and Tel Aviv do not act now, it will be dubious at best to expect the proliferation of such armaments to stop any time soon.

The first order of business in this vein is to have all the countries of the Middle East ratify the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. Israel has not done that to date although Iraq did. Secondly, the experiences of the superpowers on verification need to be put at the disposal of the concerned parties in the area. A regional United Nations agency for instance can be created for this purpose to monitor the faithful observance of a regional agreement to this effect. This objective need not await the resolution of the conflicts of the region although that would be the ideal solution. It can be initiated right away as it surely would be a long and tortuous process. Tel Aviv can at least declare its readiness to dismantle its nuclear arsenal in return for a commitment by the Arabs to destroy their mass destructive weapons and foresees any military nuclear programme.

Goodwill begets goodwill, U.S. President George Bush always maintained. (Before the Gulf crisis, that is) let him try this one.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL Ra'i Arabic daily on Wednesday focused attention on the fact that the United States was massing troops in the Gulf and waging war on the Arabs with the purpose of laying its hands on the oil wealth with which it could strangle the economies of United Europe and Japan. For Bush, a victory in the Gulf would naturally boost his stance in the coming elections, and for Israel such victory could mean complete hegemony on the Arabs and their destiny, said the paper. But this war could be the last for the Arabs; and therefore, they must come out victorious since they must defend their national interests and their soil and holy shrines, and since they want to protect the future generations from colonial rule, the paper noted. It said that Washington and London are no more concealing their real objective, and they are openly saying that it is for the sake of protecting Western interests. They have succeeded till now to draw a wedge among the Arab countries, and divide their states; and succeeded also in transforming an Iraqi-Kuwaiti crisis into an Arab colonial conflict, the paper continued. Furthermore, the colonial powers have succeeded in obtaining U.N. Security Council resolutions to impose sanctions on Iraq to pave the way for an armed conflict which they hope will revive the old imperialist era and ensure foreign domination over the Arabs, the paper noted. But, it said, Iraq is gearing up for a final battle which could be the last battle to thwart the colonial powers' ambitious designs in our region.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily Wednesday calls on the concerned authorities to arrange for the surplus vegetables and fruits in Jordan to be processed and kept for later use of export. Nazih says the Ministry of Agriculture has now re-opened Al Arida tomato paste processing plant which has a daily capacity of 350 tonnes of tomatoes in order to absorb surpluses now found in the market. The writer notes that the step came in view of the ban imposed by Saudi Arabia on all Jordanian trucks carrying fruits and vegetables to its markets or those of the Gulf countries, thus leaving a great deal of tomatoes and other crops in surplus for the market in Jordan. There is no doubt that the processing plant can absorb a large amount of the surplus tomatoes, and so reduce the losses incurred by farmers as a result of the Saudi Arabian measure, the writer adds. But, he says, there is a good chance for the surplus fruits and other vegetables to be also processed in Jordan so that farmers' losses can be reduced and to enable the country to export the crops in their preserved forms, fetching a higher price abroad.

## Lest the stars outshine the rising sun

By Rami G. Khouri

JAPANESE Prime Minister Kaifu this week visits a Middle East which is badly split over how to resolve the conflict in Kuwait, and where anti-Western sentiment is at fever pitch in many Arab countries where people can express themselves freely. He should appreciate the historical reasons for this, so that Japan, the world's newest superpower, could avoid repeating the mistakes which the French, British and Americans have made in our region.

We all reject the Iraqi invasion and annexation of Kuwait, and wish to implement Security Council resolutions to restore the sovereignty of Kuwait, on the basis of the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force. The split in the Arab World is between those who favour the military protection and deterrent power of Western armies, and those who see Western military and political interference in the Middle East as a root cause of many of our problems, our failures and our frustrations today.

While the West views the conflict over Kuwait as a battle over the application of the "rule of law" and Security Council resolutions in the new post-cold war world, we recall that for decades the world has ignored scores of other, equally binding, U.S. resolutions on Palestine and Israeli-occupied territories in Lebanon and Syria. Frustration borne of this fact has fuelled Arab forces which see massive Western militarism as the latest example of the single most persistent and destructive threat of the last century—the tradition of Western superpower manipulation of our borders, our people, our natural resources, our political alliances, and our will to live in liberty and dignity.

Examples of Western interference in our affairs include the initial artificial border demarcations of many Arab states which the British and the French imposed on us in the first half of this century, in order to maintain their colonial interests in the Middle East, North Africa and South Asia; duplicitous British promises of Arab independence dur-

ing World War I, when the British and the French were secretly working behind our backs to promise the Zionists a Jewish homeland in Palestine and to carve up the region into zones of British and French influence; the British and American record of maintaining Israeli dominance over the combined forces of the Arabs; British, French, American and Israeli efforts to crush Gamal Abdel Nasser's promise of developing Egypt as the spearhead of a politically united and strong Arab World that was free of Western interference; and overall Western acquiescence in Israel's occupation of Arab lands in Palestine, Lebanon and Syria, compared to the West's vehement reaction to the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

Kuwait and Iraq are transitory catalysts. The deeper underlying Arab sentiment that has been unleashed by this crisis is about whether the untenable post-colonial order which the British and French left us after World War I should continue—an Arab order characterised by individual and collective failures of

our artificial and unnatural countries; by inordinate disparities of resource wealth and population which primarily reflect the commercial and political interests of the West; by the frustrations and humiliations of long-term Israeli occupation of Arab lands; by the continued disenfranchisement of five million Palestinians; and by the lack of opportunities of free expression and political participation for hundreds of millions of Arabs who are fed up with living in undemocratic societies which have been unable to integrate their resources according to the deeper pan-Arab sentiment of the peoples of our region.

Unburdened by the legacy of French, British, American and Israeli colonialism in the Middle East, Japan can set a new standard of political morality for the region—and for the world. Re-engaging as it is in global affairs, Japan should affirm that international Zealotry in applying Security Council resolutions in Kuwait, while the world apparently remains indifferent to the ap-

peal of equally mandatory U.N. resolutions in Palestine, Lebanon and Syria, will only generate further Arab anger, mistrust, resentment, tension and regional conflicts. If Japan allows itself to become the silent, backroom financier and shipping agent of the West's neo-colonial and neo-imperial interests in the Arab World, it could generate its own legacy of distrust and hatred among 200 million Arabs—Arabs who should be Japan's natural partners in global economic expansion, prosperity and genuine stability.

Japan should not be made to pay protection money or make guilt payments for the mistakes of the West in the Middle East. Rather, Japanese aid to the region should spur fresh international diplomacy to resolve all the root political, social and economic causes of instability in the Middle East

—arguing that this is the only true guarantor of lasting peace, genuine stability and global cooperation and well-being. Specifically, Japan could support French President Mit-

rand's proposal for an international conference on the Middle East that would hold out the promise of justice in Palestine as well as in Kuwait. Or it could target aid to Palestine and Lebanon; in order to help Israel and the United States appreciate that lasting stability in the Gulf can only be achieved when all Middle Eastern people achieve national aspirations and dignity, and not only those who can muster political clout in Washington and London.

This is the humane model

which Japan could offer the world in terms of appropriate and internationally acceptable superpower behaviour—in the closing years of a century which has seen hundreds of millions of people suffer at the hands of superpower behaviour that has usually been predatory, self-centered and militaristic.

Rami Khouri contributed the above article as a Guest Column for this week's Japanese edition of Newsweek magazine.

## Understanding U.S. congressional support for the Jewish state

By Parker L. Payson

WITH U.S. congressional elections just a few weeks away, President George Bush and Vice President Dan Quayle have canvassed the country in support of Republican candidates for Congress. At the same time, Democrats have blasted the president and his supporters for their calls to cut the capital-gains tax, slow cuts in defense spending and outlaw abortion. On these issues, most candidates are split down party lines. On one issue in Congress, however, there is near unanimity, unquestionable support for Israel. Because, according to one congressional aid, "congressman who does not pledge allegiance to Israel will find themselves looking for a new job."

Five letters can explain this power: "AIPAC." AIPAC is the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, a group that lobbies Congress to pass legislation in favour of Israel. AIPAC has been so successful that former speaker of the House of Representatives Tip O'Neill calls it "as effective an operation as there is in Washington."

Through a nationwide network of local support groups, AIPAC can swamp a congressman's desk with hundreds of letters from constituents within days. Because of AIPAC's helpers on Capitol Hill, pro-Israeli letters often reach lawmakers even before legislation does.

Where the buck stops

The real source of AIPAC's power, though, lies in its ability to marshall financial backing to members of Congress who support Israel and unleash misery on those who don't. The pro-Israel lobby has spent over \$19.8 million since 1978 on congressional candidates, and as of June 30, 1990, raised over \$6.5 million and spent over \$2.8 million for the 1990 elections.

Because federal law prohibits a registered lobby from making campaign contributions, AIPAC, itself, cannot give money to candidates. Instead, money is funnelled out by a network of pro-Israel PACs, or political action committees, who look to AIPAC for guidance.

By law, each PAC is entitled to give up to \$10,000 to each candidate. But because there are 124 pro-Israel PACs, who support the same agenda and give predominantly to the same candidates, the campaign spending limits are effectively circumvented. As a result, the AIPAC-led, pro-Israel lobby has become America's largest special interest group, spending over \$5.8 million in 1988, \$2.2 million more than the next largest special interest group, the National Association of Realtors.

Blinding the public

Federal election laws require candidates to disclose the amount of money PACs contribute to their campaigns, but pro-Israel PACs have made a mockery of public disclosure laws by using names which mask their agenda. In 1988, not one of the 114 active pro-Israel PACs had names which mentioned Israel, the Middle East, or anything that would suggest an allegiance to Israel.



Instead they are called "For Integrity in Government," "Americans for a Good Government," "Chilipac," and "Icepac," to name a few. These names make it virtually impossible for the public to find out who is actually financing its representatives in Washington.

The lesson

Members of Congress, though, know exactly where their money comes from and are periodically reminded of what happens if they vote against the Israel lobby. "Like an Indian elephant we don't forget," AIPAC President Thomas Dine told Congress in 1984. To prove his point, AIPAC and its supporters went after two senators, the Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, 18-year incumbent Charles Percy (R-II), who supported arms sales to Saudi Arabia, and the Foreign Relations Committee's next ranking member, Jesse Helms (R-NC), who voted against aid to Israel, spending over \$1.7 million to defeat the two men.

Percy was defeated, and Helms won by a slim margin, in what to date has been the most expensive congressional race in history. Although Dine said Helms "had the worst anti-Israel record in the United States Senate," after 1984 election he became a changed man. In 1989, he spearheaded Israel's drive to recognise Jerusalem as the capital of Israel by sponsoring legislation that would move the U.S. embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

After 1984, Helms supported AIPAC-backed legislation so much that by 1990, he was taken off the pro-Israel lobby hit list. Harvey Gant, Helms' opponent this year, has only received minimal support for the November 1990 elections, and Helms has even been rewarded with \$4,500 for his upcoming race.

This year's action

Helms is not alone. Some 30 of the 31 senators running for re-election in 1990 have taken pro-Israel PAC money. Leading the Senate in donations is Carl Levin (D-MI), who as a senior member of the Armed Services Committee plays a critical role in ratifying arms sales to Saudi Arabia and other Arab countries. Levin has received \$185,300 for his 1990 re-election race and \$364,338 from pro-Israel PACs since 1978. Senator Paul Simon (D-IL), who defeated Percy in 1984, follows with \$180,151 for 1990 and \$498,290 overall. Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA), who sits on the Foreign Operations and Defence Subcommittees of the Appropriations Committee, is ranked third, receiving \$177,050 for the 1990 race and \$291,480 since 1978.

In the House of Representatives, David Obey (D-WI) is the top recipient of pro-Israel PAC money for 1990. And for good reason, Obey is Chairman of the Foreign Operations Subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee, which oversees the spending of U.S. foreign aid. Obey, a long-time friend of Israel, has recently become more critical, warning that "foot-drag-

ging and obfuscation" in the peace process will harm Israeli chances for future U.S. aid. Rather than take on Obey, who is expected to win re-election easily, pro-Israel PACs have given him \$38,300 for his 1990 re-election race. Obey has received \$100,400 from pro-Israel PACs since 1978.

"Practically every congressman and senator says his prayers to the AIPAC lobby," says former Under Secretary of State George Ball. In fact, over all, 458 members of Congress have taken money from pro-Israel PACs, including 90 per cent of the members to face re-election on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and 98 per cent of the House Foreign Affairs Committee; two committees that are directly involved in molding U.S.-Middle East policy.

All these donations lend credence to the charge that the U.S. Congress is another Israeli-occupied territory, and that President Bush's attempts to support U.S. interests, whether it is in selling arms to America's Arab allies or trying to broker a viable Middle East peace, will be difficult battles indeed.

Parker L. Payson is elections editor for the *The Washington Report on Middle East Affairs* and has co-authored a book by Richard Curtis entitled *Stealth PACs, How Israel's American Lobby Seeks to Control U.S. Middle East Policy* (American Educational Trust, Washington, D.C.).

We are Italian ladies, living in Jordan married to Jordanian citizens.

We feel an obligation to express our deep sense of indignation and disapproval at the way the major part of the western media has been presenting the Gulf problem, the superficiality, and at the speed with which military intervention was called for.

We note, in the way in which news regarding the Arab World is reported, a lack of deep understanding of the problems which bring to light the historical and political causes of the events.

The justifiability of placing the great economic powers at the centre of the world offends the dignity and pride of the people who have always been forced to submit to the interest of other countries.

We are aware of how deluded the people are about this unjust situation and we understand the desperate need for revenge.

For too long there have been two different yardsticks in use, pertaining to the situation in the Middle East.

A just solution should be found, taking into consideration all the various problems in the Middle East, from the Palestinian problem, to the Lebanese crisis, and to the problem in the Gulf through the convening of an international conference.

We hope that any diplomatic initiative for a political, global, and just solution would not be hindered and that His Majesty King Hussein would continue along the road of political mediation to avoid a conflict which would have devastating and incalculable consequences.

There exist basic human principles of equality, justice and respect which go beyond any ethnic origins and which are common to all religions.

There is a moral duty for this not to be forgotten or denied as history has shown us in the past.

We are part of the life and history of this country and that of the Arab World general.

A group of Italian ladies, Amman

## As far as gestures go

To the Editor,

Some friends of mine have complained that President Bush's conciliatory tone in his speech to the U.N. General Assembly earlier this week has largely gone without due appreciation in Jordan. They wonder that that was not the case when French President Mitterrand announced his four-stage plan for the Middle East a few days earlier. Can't it be true that Bush did not go as far as Mitterrand did in their conciliatory gestures towards the Arabs?

Samir Bakhsh, Amman.

# Jordan Times WEEKENDER

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## An Egyptian feminist speaks out

By Katie Sabet

CAIRO — She has written half a dozen books and seen all of them made into films. She has appeared on countless television and radio shows, spoken at conferences and seminars all over the world and is a regular contributor to one of Egypt's best-known magazines. Under any circumstances, Eqbal Baraka's achievements would be considerable, but in a country where traditions run deep and society remains fundamentally patriarchal, they are nothing less than exceptional. In a career spanning nearly three decades this 47-year-old writer has established herself as one of the most compelling authors in the Middle East as well as one of the most committed and active feminists in present day Egypt.

Baraka herself rejects the word "feminist," arguing that it serves only to perpetuate what has become an obsolete difference between the sexes. Yet it is against this very difference that Baraka has fought for more than 30 years.

"Discrimination between the sexes begins the minute you pronounce the word 'feminism.' This is why Nasser's revolution, which gave the Egyptian woman every social and legal tool to develop and evolve, never set up a women's association," she said. Baraka is referring to the 1952 revolution led by Egypt's first president, Gamal Abdul Nasser, which brought independence and advocated equality of the sexes as part of a new Socialist model.

But although she considers herself to be one of the daughters of a revolution that allowed her to grow personally, Baraka says she believes most women missed out on the opportunities of the era, because they failed to unite and organise.

Baraka lays part of the blame on women themselves. "In Egyptian society in general, there is an enormous difference in the number of women who, on the one hand have a university education and work, and on the other, those who could be described as having fully realised their potential," she said.

There is definitely something of the rebel in Baraka. Yet she says her revolutionary spirit is not the product of a personal frustration, but of the family situation into which she was born. "I was born into a traditional family. It was such a stereotype of a certain era," she said. "My father was an official at the Ministry of Awqaf at a time when the average Egyptian saw being a civil servant as the epitome of success."

Those days are long gone, but Abdul Hamid Baraka took the stereotype to its utmost limit. He had three wives who bore him 10 children. Baraka is the daughter of the third wife, who was 30 years younger than her husband and lived under the same roof as the much older "dorra" — the name given to a man's second wife. There was also an elderly grandmother in the family's spacious apartment in Daher, one of Cairo's most ethnically mixed neighbourhoods.

"The reasons are complex but one of them is the fact that the progress is seen as a personal accomplishment; it is individual and subjective," she said. "When it comes to others, progress is seen as

pretentiousness."

Ironically, Baraka admits to being 100 per cent content with her life as a wife and as mother to a grown-up son and daughter and she claims to draw great satisfaction from her work. She is blonde, attractive and has a voice and a presence which come over strongly when she is addressing audiences. She is known for her courage and outspokenness.

"I also found it absurd and revolting that my mother and her 'dorra' should accept each other's presence under the same roof," said Baraka. "I remember the sadness that never left my mother. She loved my father dearly, so much so that she died less than a year after he did. My own rebellion against the role of women in the East began when I saw the tears of my mother swallowed so often in

silence."

Although women today are better equipped with tools to fight for their rights, Baraka is not convinced they know how to use them. It is not easy to overturn a system that has been ingrained in society for thousands of years, she says. Many oriental women are fatalistic by nature, she adds. "Everything would have been different if Egyptian women had realised the importance of their role in society through the education of their children. Within the family unit, the oriental woman has almost limitless power. Had women made use of this

extraordinary covert power in the years that followed 1952, Egypt would be in a completely different situation today.

Unfortunately, we lacked cohesion, solidarity and

perhaps leadership as well."

The progress of women is something that must be looked at objectively, says Baraka. She argues that the much-vaunted liberation of Western women is less far-reaching than it seems. "I don't consider a woman to be really liberated when she places sexual relationships on the same level as the pleasures of the table," she said. "By trying to get rid of the last vestiges of the Victorian taboos, the Western woman has perhaps overstepped her goal and fallen into an opposite form of slavery: that of the flesh, of seeking pleasure

at all costs and in the process, she has lost sight of the less material values."

Baraka sees freedom as a more personal concept. "What I mean by freedom is having the power of decision that enables a woman to defend her dignity under any circumstances," she said. "For a woman, freedom is also having the chance to earn a living so as not to be dependent on an undeserving husband. To be free is to be conscious of the role we must play in a modern society and to have the will to play that role to the end, no matter what."

— World News Link.

## Charlie Brown, Snoopy and the gang turn 40 years old

By Catherine Crocker  
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Good grief. The Peanuts gang is turning 40.

The images are embedded in popular culture: Charlie Brown trying to kick a football, Snoopy guining for the red Baron and Lucy dispensing psychiatric advice, a Nick's worth at a time.

Now it's time to celebrate. In honour of the 40th anniversary of the celebrated comic strip Peanuts, there's a jazz concert at Carnegie Hall, a birthday party at the National History Museum of Los Angeles and a special exhibit at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington.

On Oct. 2, 1950, Peanuts made its debut in seven newspapers, and good old Charlie Brown and his beguiling Beagle were on their way to becoming an international phenomenon.

Today the strip runs in 2,300 newspapers and reaches more than 200 million readers a day in 68 countries. The

Peanuts gang speaks Chinese, even Serbo-Croatian.

There's been a hit musical, *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown*, a series of TV specials and a book on the philosophical and religious implications of the strip, the Gospel According to Peanuts.

In September, cartoonist Charles M. Schulz was one of Forbes magazine's top 10 richest entertainers, with earnings for 1989 and 1990 estimated at \$54 million.

Unlike many cartoonists, the 67-year-old Schulz still draws every comic strip himself.

"Why do musicians compose symphonies and poets write poems?" he asked. "They do it because life wouldn't have any meaning for them if they didn't."

"That's why I draw cartoons. It's my life."

The cartoonist was born in St. Paul, Minnesota. He studied art in high school, after he saw a "do you like to draw?" ad.

Schulz later did lettering for

a church comic book, taught art and sold cartoons to the Saturday Evening Post. His cartoon feature *Li'l Folks*, the forerunner of Peanuts, was developed for the St. Paul Pioneer Press in 1947. The strip was sold to a syndicate in 1950, and the name changed to Peanuts.

Charlie, the round-headed boy in a ragged shirt, was named after a friend at art school and is the cartoonist's alter ego. Snoopy was inspired by a dog he had as a child.

The little red-haired girl — Charlie's unrequited love who is never shown in the strip — was based on a girlfriend who rejected Schulz's proposal of marriage.

Through the years, for the millions of readers, Charlie and his gang have been like family.

Followers know that Snoopy — in his World War I flying ace incarnation — flies a sopwith camel. They know Linus needs his security blanket and Schroeder plays

Beethoven on his tiny piano. The 40th birthday festivities kicked off at the Super Bowl Stadium in New Orleans in January with a halftime show featuring the Peanuts characters.

The Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County saluted Charlie, Snoopy, Linus, Schroeder, Peppermint Patty, Sally, Lucy — and Schulz — with an exhibit that premiered at the Louvre in January.

There will be original artwork by Schulz, excerpts from the more than 40 Peanuts television shows and Snoopy mementos that were carried aboard NASA's Apollo 10 mission.

New York City will toast Schulz and his characters Oct. 24 with a jazz concert at Carnegie Hall, featuring saxophonist Grover Washington Jr. The Peanuts television specials have been noted for their original jazz scores.

Opening Oct. 30 at the Smithsonian is "This Is Your Childhood, Charlie Brown — Children in American Cul-

ture, 1945-1970, an exhibit that looks at how Schulz's comic strips reflected childhood and American culture after World War II.

There will also be a

Snoopy: The Universal Dog exhibit at the Dog Museum in St. Louis, starting Nov. 11. A Peanuts exhibit is now on display at the Museum of Cartoon Art in San Francisco.

— World News Link.

## Passion Play keeps tradition going strong

OBERRAMMERGAU — For over four months this summer the idyllic village of Oberammergau, population 5,000 in Upper Bavaria was visited by over half a million people from all over the world. They came to see the villagers perform their famous passion play, dating back to 1634 when Upper Bavaria was stricken by an epidemic of the plague. The villagers promised to perform a passion play every 10 years if they survived the epidemic. There were no more victims of the "black death," and the villagers have since regularly enacted the sufferings and death of Jesus Christ.

The Oberammergau Passion Play, performed every 10 years, is as popular in other European countries, in America, Australia and many other parts of the world as it is in Germany. Over half the tickets for the season's 100 performances have been ordered for visitors from Britain and North America. What used to be an act of Christian piety has long been big business and a major tourist attraction for the idyllic Alpine village with its ornate chalets.

But traditions are still strictly enforced, one being that only people born in Oberam-



Bavarian Prime Minister Max Streibl, front right, here seen alongside this year's Jesus Christ, Martin Norz, plays a simple "man of the people" in the Passion Play at his home village of Oberammergau in the Bavarian Alps.

mergau can act in the Passion Play. At present that means a potential cast of 1,700, from babes in arms to old folk. The

best-known villager is Bavarian Prime Minister Max Streibl, who comes up from Munich whenever he can to play a man of the people and hail the Messiah on his entry to Jerusalem — German Fea-

## Warsaw opens its heart to Chopin Piano Competition

By Andrew Tarnowski  
Reuter

WARSAW — Warsaw opens

its heart to the musical talent of the world this week as young pianists from 30 countries gather for the Frederic Chopin Piano Competition.

The competition, 12th in a series inaugurated in 1927 to honour Poland's composer, is one of the world's most prestigious musical festivals.

It is rivalled only by the Tchaikovsky Competition in Moscow and the Queen Elisabeth Competition in Brussels.

When it reaches its climax on Oct. 21 with the award of the winner's gold medal after three weeks of public recitals at Warsaw's Philharmonia Concert Hall, a new piano prodigy will be born.

The presence of two queens, Sofia of Spain and Fabiola of Belgium, will add glitter to this year's competition. But it will not completely escape the austerity Poland is suffering in the switch from Communism to capitalism.

First-round contestants are being asked for the first time to pay their hotel bills to help the Solidarity-led government meet its share of the \$1 million bill.

According to Professors Jan Ekiel, president of the 21-member international jury, the Chopin Competition is probably the most important of its kind.

"To win is the start of a career. Most of the winners make their career thanks to the competition," he said.

The winner will join a pantheon of laureates like Martha Argerich of Argentina, Maurizio Pollini of Italy, Garrick Ohlsson of the United States and Krystian Zimmerman of Poland.

Valdimir Ashkenazy, who is on the jury, only managed second place in 1955, a vintage year in which entrants included Hungarian virtuosi Tamas Vasary and Peter Frankl.

"It's a very difficult competition," said Ekiel. "It's not only technically difficult but it's psychologically gruelling. There are many entrants and the competition is very tough."

"You really have to distinguish yourself to emerge from the mass and win a prize."

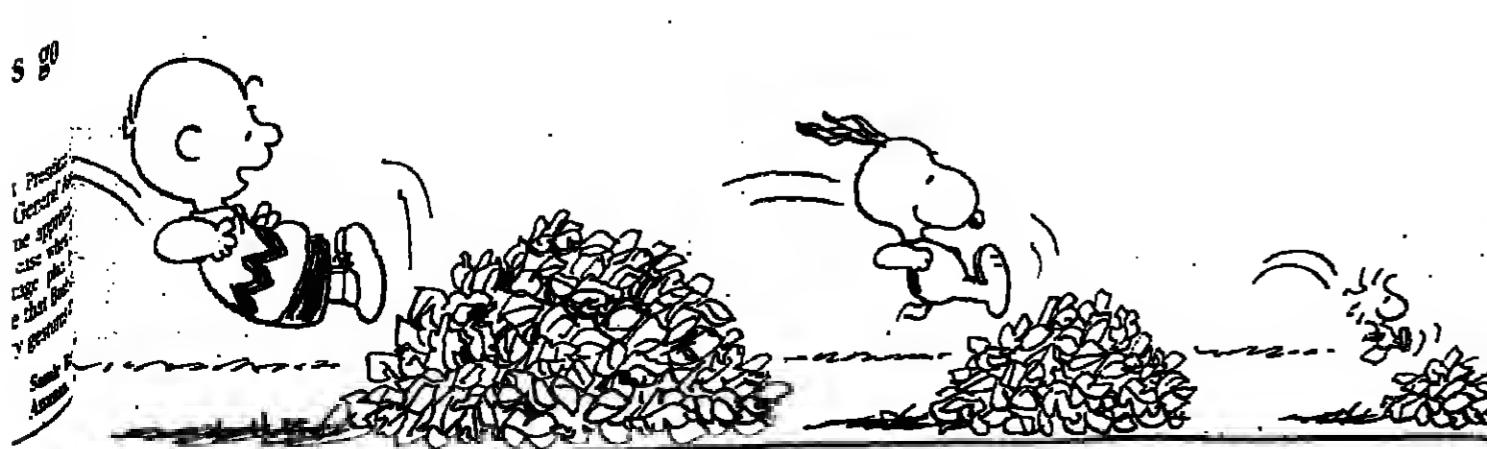
Nearly 140 young pianists came second in 1970 and fourth in the last competition.

"Maybe it's the influence of contemporary music, or the attitudes of young people or even of modern technique," he said.

"But the way of combining the music to continue the melody seems more difficult now and the sonority of the new pianos doesn't capture the Chopin sound," he added.

Traditionally, Soviet and Polish pianists have dominated the competition, winning seven out of 11 times but Asian pianists have kept up a determined challenge and are back in strength this year.

Thi Son Dang of Vietnam won in 1980 and Japanese



## Talking about children

By Maha Addasi

GO to any social event, where people are most showing off their latest outfits and start a conversation about the depletion of the ozone layer, and you will become the recluse of the year, as the group you are standing with instantly dissipates.

So what all-season conversation starter gets first ratings in the social groups?

Well it is none other than, "the children."

Once a parent starts talking about his, or her child, they're on a roll and there's no stopping them.

If you sway the conversation to, say, water shortages, it suddenly reminds that parent about the, "wonderful project junior worked on regarding that subject."

Do you people in readerland get my tread?

The problem isn't the children per se, but how these parents make their children out to be the Godsend to society, and they rank their kids up there with famous people. So the conversation goes something like this: "Einstein, Nobel, son or daughter's name..." and continues to make the child out to be the season's success story, because like all the children on Earth this kid is at the top of his class!

At their worst people's children are, "very, very intelligent, but they don't study."

My question is, "why don't the creeps study, or are they so spoiled that their parents can't control them?" Of course, I say nothing and move on.

At another group, a woman is telling the others how her darling child is so lonely after his siblings left for college. So

last week alone she bought the kid three new board games, and two new outfits.

"And a partridge in a pear tree," another woman adds sarcastically.

One of my friends, Cindi, who doesn't mind my saying her name, provided I didn't mention her last name, Feiner, (pronounced Finer), says that there is a way to handle a conversation with a "parent admirer of his own child."

"If I exhaust the subject about the weather and there is absolutely nothing else to talk about," Cindi says, "I ask about the children. But I tell the parent that he or she are allowed one and only one story so they should choose the most entertaining episode about their little brats. And I warn them that one extra word out of them about the kids and they can compare notes with Marie Antoinette."

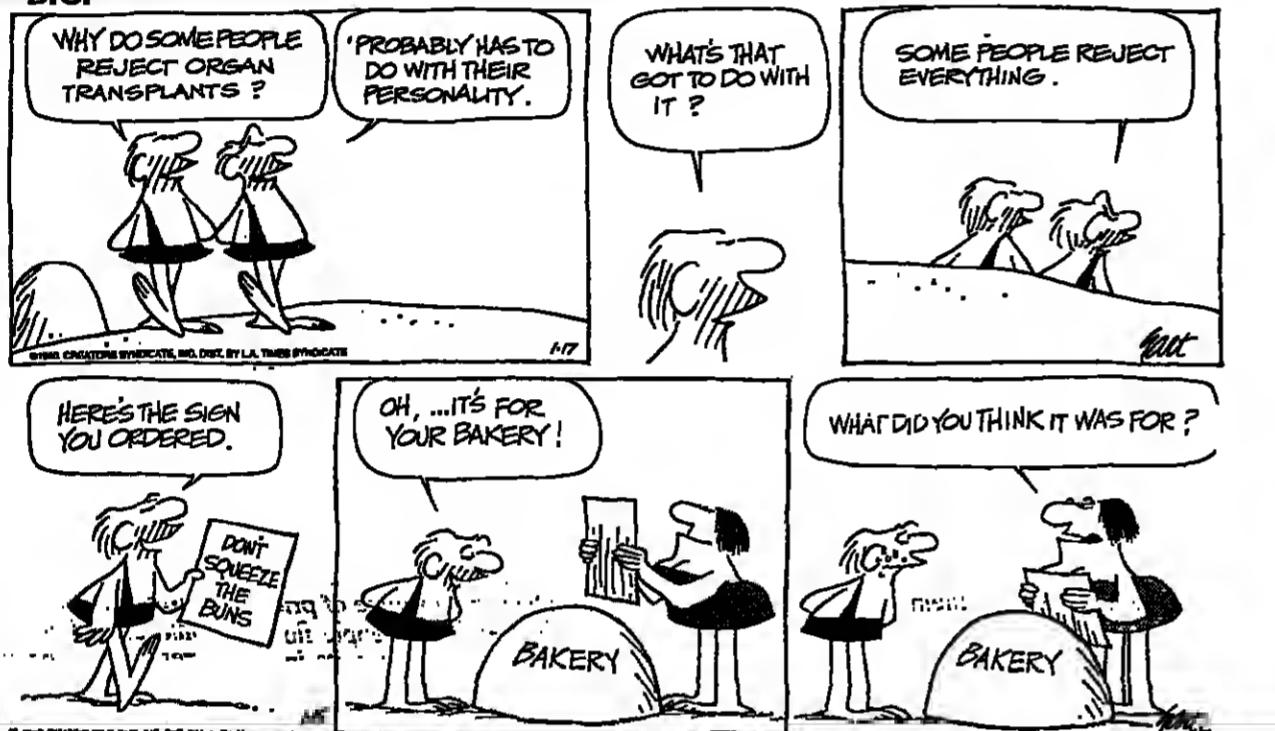
"That, usually takes care of the conversation, if the parents are still on talking terms with me," Cindi says.

I, on the other hand, would be more inclined to tolerate the stories about how the same kid who said "gaga" when he first got into the babies' swimming pool (which is also a huge public toilet for babies) is now looking for a job as a marine biologist. I listen as I silently wonder if the paté knife slashes wrists.

But no more of this. That's it. I'm going to put my foot down and not listen to these stories any more.

The only solution I've come up with is to give up being the social butterfly and stay home. The events are all the same. The conversations are all the same. And the next time I feel I must show off my latest outfit, I will send it to the party on a hanger with a friend like Cindi, who would announce that this is what I would have worn had I shown up.

B.C.



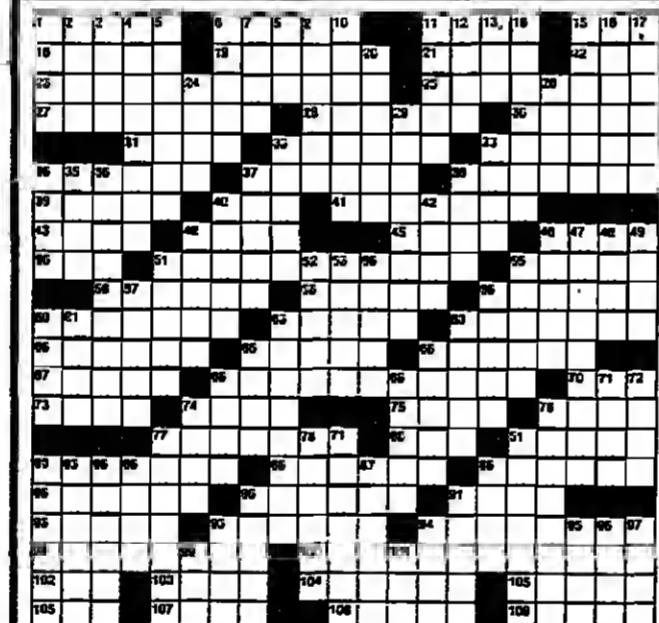
## Weekend Crossword

PENETRATING LANGUAGE  
By Ed Witten

**ACROSS**  
1 Turf title  
2 Who's  
3 The Lens  
11 Convalesce  
13 Degree  
15 Day law  
19 Made happen  
21 Et., river  
22 Handshake  
23 Bartender  
25 Gilbert & Sullivan star  
27 Dr. Who  
28 Blasph.  
30 "Inferno"  
author  
31 Ocean bank  
assets  
32 "Seven — for  
Seven Brothers"  
33 Lessee

**DOWN**  
1 Pain in the neck  
2 Name in tannins  
3 Laundry  
4 Gassy  
5 Clothing  
6 Pains  
7 Tannin's land  
8 Two singers  
9 Nautical word  
10 More in war  
11 Headache  
12 — the Red  
13 — Arbor, M.  
14 — Jane Eyre"  
author  
15 Jimmy or Neil  
17 Gassy  
20 Make deser  
24 Wound reminder  
25 Optician  
weapon

**Diagramless** 19x19. By Martha J. De Witt



## Ray Charles going strong at 60

By Hillel Italie  
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Turning 60 is no big deal for Ray Charles. He feels fine, doesn't have any profound insights to offer and is too busy performing to worry about it.

"Birthdays are just like the clock," reasons Charles, whose birthday was Sunday (Sept. 23). "If you just live, it comes around anyway."

Think of Ray Charles and you'll picture him behind a piano, his shoulders swaying, his head thrown back in ecstasy. But offstage, he keeps to himself.

"I don't have maybe more than three, five friends in the whole world," he said in a recent interview. "It's not that I don't like people and it's not that people don't like me, but everybody has their own lifestyle and I'm very much into myself."

The white in his hair is the

only clue to his age. His face is almost wrinkle-free, his body wiry and loose. Words come out in a rush, his mind pushing them out through his mouth as quickly as possible.

Seated in an overstuffed chair in his Manhattan hotel room, Charles shifted about like a first grader who knows recess begins in 15 minutes, fiddling with his glasses, tugging at a sock, pulling one knee to the floor, bending and turning his legs. He was dressed simply in a pale green shirt, slacks and loafers.

"I've known times where I've felt terrible, but once I get to the stage and the band starts with the music, I don't know why but it's like you have pain and take an aspirin, and you don't feel it no more," said Charles, who is touring with B.B. King this fall.

The high and low moments of the singer's life are all on record, from the driving beat

of "I've Got a Woman" to the beautiful ballad "That Lucky Old Sun" and his most famous hit "Georgia On My Mind."

"The way I see it," Charles said, "we're actors, but musicians... We're doing it with notes, and lyrics with notes, telling a story. I can take an audience and get 'em into a frenzy so they'll almost riot, and yet I can sit there so you can almost hear a pin drop."

He was born Ray Charles Robinson on Sept. 23, 1930, in Albany, Georgia. His father, Bailey Robinson, was a mechanic and a handyman, and his mother, Reather, stacked boards in a sawmill.

His family moved to Gainesville, Florida, and when Charles was 6 he was stricken with glaucoma and lost his eyesight.

By the time he was 15 his parents were dead and Charles had graduated from the St. Augustine School for the Blind, where he learned to

read in Braille and to play piano and clarinet.

He moved to Seattle, dropped his last name (in deference to boxer Sugar Ray Robinson) and patterned himself after crooner Nat "King" Cole. He also formed a group that backed rhythm 'n' blues singer Ruth Brown.

Charles developed quickly.

Atlantic Records purchased his contract from Swingtime Records in 1952, and two years later he recorded "I've Got a Woman," a raw mixture of gospel and rhythm 'n' blues, inventing what was later called soul.

Soon, he was being called "the genius."

"If I look back on the earlier years, it just seems like to me I can see myself growing in the music," he said. "I was doing whatever felt good to me at the time."

The bad times, a heroin addiction that led to several arrests and forced him to take

a year off in the mid-1960s, are well behind him.

He once spoke of crying on stage if a song especially moved him, but that doesn't happen anymore. At a recent gig at New York's The Blue Note, Charles breezed through a 60-minute set that featured Georgia, the rocking "Smack Dab in the Middle" and "Don't Set Me Free, I Can't Stop Loving You and What'd I Say," his closing number for three decades.

The audience couldn't stop clapping.

"I've never been nervous," he said. "I didn't know you were supposed to be nervous when you got on the stage. When I played Carnegie Hall for the first time people would say, 'weren't you nervous?' I didn't feel nervous because I was so keyed up, so ecstatic and so happy about having the opportunity to play in Carnegie Hall."

Bodyguards may be all right



Ray Charles

for Prince and Michael Jackson, but not for Ray Charles.

Crowds don't dare him.

"When I walk through I know all they want to do is touch me. What's wrong with letting them touch me? They don't want to hurt me," he said, his voice rising in mock hysteria.

"I can't believe all these big guys, 'don't touch him because he's a piece of gold.'

"I figure if anybody wants to harm me, all they got to do is sit in the audience and pick me off because I'm up there at the piano and I'm wide open. The public was never given me anything but love and if they want to touch me, let them touch me. Now, does that tell you something?"

## 450 years later, El Greco's hometown celebrates the artist

By Nikos Konstandaras  
The Associated Press

IRAKLION, Greece — It took more than four centuries for Iraklion to hold a major exhibit of paintings by native son El Greco, but it decided to hurry in celebrating his 450th birthday and held the show a year early.

Domenicos Theotopoulos, as the artist was born and as he is signed his work, is represented by 30 paintings, five cans by a wealth of documents and books illuminating his life.

He died in Toledo, Spain, in 1614. It was there that the visionary artist became known as El Greco — the Greek — and Giorgos Hortatzis wrote Venetian-inspired epics that are sung to this day in the distinctive Cretan dialect in remote villages.

"One swallow does not herald the spring, but it is better than no swallow at all," Florou said in an interview.

"This exhibition creates a counterbalance to the general climate of the time. People will be reminded that there is more to life than buying cars and building hotels. They will remember the arts that they carry about inside them."

Crete is currently enjoying an unprecedented economic boom, with high European community subsidies for agriculture and hotels being built at the University of Crete. He spent two years organizing the exhibition.

For Cretans, the exhibition of El Greco's work and life has become a source of pride, with over 2,500 people flocking to it daily since its inauguration on Sept. 1. It runs until Oct. 10.

"Fortunately, both candidates for mayor in the (October) municipal elections support our effort," he said.

The congress on El Greco

held at Iraklion's Harbour Fortress in early September was the second major gathering to discuss the painter.

The first was in Toledo in 1982. No Greeks were invited to it and there was no mention of the Greek side of his life and work, Hadjinicolaou said.

The city does not own a single painting by its most famous son.

But it certainly remembers him. Overlooking the basilica square is the huge neon sign of the El Greco Hotel. Further away is the Theotopoulos Hotel.

"The atmosphere at the exhibition is very interesting. We see people here who have never been to an exhibition," Hadjinicolaou said in an interview.

"It is a symbolic honour by us to a young artist who lived and worked here... before making a great career abroad. We owe it to honour someone who honours us," he said.

"There were many doubts over its authenticity before the congress," said Hadjinicolaou. "But during the congress those who had expressed doubts remained silent."

"The Argentine film industry is the only (one) in the world that can create the image of what we are — make a photograph of us... be a mirror of Argentines... show the rhythm, the light, the music of Argentina," Getino said.

Subiela, vice president of the Argentine Film Directors Association, argues that state resources are essential and suggests the lack of such funding, "given the consequences... may be seen as a sophisticated form of censorship."

More state funding in the short run, however, is improbable, and the national film industry seems likely to remain a flickering image.

## Adult-theme films expected to follow banishment of X rating

By Ronald Clarke  
Reuter

X rating in favour of a new rating called NC 17 (no children under 17).

Spokesmen for the National Council of Churches and the U.S. Catholic Conference said the (MPAA) had caved in to "the commercial interests of those attempting to get sexually exploitative material into general theatrical release."

The two groups called on the industry to rescind its decision and on local theatre owners not to show the films. The first film to test the new

rating is "Henry And June,"

rating system will be Universal Pictures' "Henry And June," the story of a 1931 love affair involving author Henry Miller, his wife June and writer Anais Nin and featuring scenes of lesbian love-making.

Producers and studios have

in the past rejected powerful scripts with strong themes because they feared they would receive an X rating, which meant the film would not be shown in local cinemas but in movie houses catering to porography.

The association will also

clarify its R rating, which

allows children to see such

the MPAA which represents Hollywood studios, said his group had changed its X rating, which he instigated 22 years ago, to NC-17. Henry And June, which received an X rating, is now expected to apply for the new rating.

"We had an X rating that conveyed the wrong thing," Tom Pollock, head of Universal Pictures, said. "It is better to have a category that can work with honour to replace the X, which had a stigma."

Several independent and foreign films, including "The Cook, The Thief, His Wife and Her Lover," "Henry: Portrait of a Serial Killer," and the Spanish language "Tie Me Up

"Tie Me Down" were finally distributed without any rating, meaning many theatres refused to show them.

In 1969, the X-rated "Midnight Cowboy" received three Oscars, including one for best film and one for British director John Schlesinger. Last Tango In Paris, starring Marlon Brando, was released in 1973 with an X rating.

In recent years not only

would many theatres not book X films, but newspapers and television stations would not accept advertisements for them.

## The Moulin Rouge marks 100th anniversary

By Camille Herisson

PARIS — In 1989, the World Fair was in full swing and the first visitors to the Eiffel Tower climbed its 100 metres. It was then that in Place Blanche, at the foot of Montmartre hill, the scarlet sails of the Moulin Rouge (red windmill), the new Parisian haunt of pleasure, started going round.

This cabaret quickly found itself on the circuit of the Grand Dukes. Last autumn, this prestigious establishment celebrated a century of sequins and diamanté, a century of French cancan, extravagance and liberated fantasies. It was a picturesque, colourful fresco of naughty Paris, haunted by the shadows of so many famous people.

First of all, there was Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec, who made the Moulin Rouge famous in its early days. He was a disabled painter and, from the time it opened, he was a regular patron. He was there every evening, in the front row, with his moustache dipping into his glass of cognac.

Among the cabaret's ephemeral glories was "La Goulue" (the greedy one), so called because she used to drain the dregs of spectators' glasses. She always used to turn up for rehearsals with a little goat on a lead. La Goulue was to fall on hard times, after appearing in fairs putting her head in a lion's mouth. She was to be seen later on selling peanuts, outside the door of the Moulin Rouge.

There was also Yvette Guilbert, the flamboyant redhead. She told the brilliant midget (Toulouse-Lautrec) that he was the "Quasimodo of Art." And Jane Avril, the society woman, who was the former mistress of Auguste Renoir and of the humorist Alphonse Allais. Lautrec developed a passion for her, although he found she had the "little face of a funeral rat."

Then there was "La Torpille" (the torpedo), "L'Hirondelle" (the swallow), "Grille d'Egypt" (sewer grating), and "La Sauterelle" (the grasshopper). They were the queens of Paris-having-fun.

They fascinated the gentlemen dressed in black, with their top hats and waxed moustaches, who arrived at the Moulin Rouge in a swaying waltz, and then in the tawdry finery of a Paris ruffian as "La Môme Tire-Bouchon" (the corkscrew

kid). Seventeen years later, she had become the leading lady of the shows. With her working-class bantering, her famous legs and her liveliness, (her authority too), "La Miss," as she became known, led reviews which people came from all over the world to applaud: "C'est Paris," "Paris qui tourne," "Paris qui jazz," etc.

After the Belle Epoque and

the Lautrec years, came Mistinguett. The star made her debut on the stage of the Moulin Rouge in 1908 in a swaying waltz, and then in the tawdry finery of a Paris ruffian as "La Môme Tire-Bouchon" (the corkscrew

kid). Seventeen years later, she had become the leading lady of the shows. With her working-class bantering, her famous legs and her liveliness, (her authority too), "La Miss," as she became known, led reviews which people came from all over the world to applaud: "C'est Paris," "Paris qui tourne," "Paris qui jazz," etc.

After the World War II, Edith Piaf, in turn, was to give Yves Montand his chance on the Moulin Rouge stage at some time: Claudio, Fragon, Georges, Mayol... Maurice Chevalier's boaster quickly became famous there. And the

corridors echoed with the stormy love affair of "La Miss" and the "boy" (Chevalier) promised for fame. She also engaged a beginner, with all the looks of a "bad boy" for her show. He was to have an exceptional career in cinema: Jean Gabin.

After a century of splits, high-kicks, ribald "come-hither" songs, the Moulin Rouge, which is both a hot-house for young talent and a temple of good natured naughtiness, remains a Parisian institution, just like the Eiffel Tower.

"Even more beautiful at night, when the sky becomes covered with stars, the Moulin Rouge watches over Paris, like a citadel," sing the girls, kicking their legs, in their rustling outfits — "L'Actualité en France."

It's never been easy to make a movie in Argentina.

Carlos Sorin makes that point indirectly in "The King's Movie," a whimsical 1985 film about a 19th century adventurer who briefly ruled the araucanian Indians in Patagonia.

In the plot within a plot, funds ran out, the cast quit and the director rides in place of the adventurer through an army of mannequins. In the final scene he brainstorms his next project.

An underlying theme in the current crisis is who will put Argentina's ideas, music, visages, and people on film if the country becomes merely a backdrop for foreign productions.

## Good reviews, bad box office prompts reassessment of Argentine film industry

By Ed McCullough  
The Associated Press

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina — Elio Subiela's latest movie suffered the usual fate of a good Argentine film. Last Images of a Shipwreck won best script, best actress and best movie honours at film festivals in Montreal, Havana and Biarritz last year.

At home, about 50,000 Argentines paid to see Subiela's film.

"I'm proud of it... (but) economically, it was a disaster," he said in a recent interview.

Commercial success was less important a few years ago

when the government spent millions of dollars to underwrite production costs and when Argentines, avid moviegoers, each paid to see two to three films a year.

These days, ticket sales — a portion of which goes to the National Institute of Cinematography to finance new films — are vital.

Since President Carlos Menem took office 13 months ago amid hyperinflation and recession, state funds have dried up. Just as troubling to producers and directors, more and more Argentines are watching movies at home on videotape or cable television.

After a peak of \$11 million

in 1985, the government allotted the National Film Institute about \$6.5 million in 1988 and 1989.

"This year, we asked for \$7 million. By the end of June, we received only \$200,000," said institute spokesman Ernesto Mariano.

"Crisis" is the word used by the director of the National Film Institute, Octavio Getino, to describe the industry that once set the pace for Latin America.

Overall attendance dropped to 25 million (M) last year — fewer than one movie per person — from 64 million (M) in 1984. Nearly four of every 10 theatres open five years

ago have shut down. The decline in attendance at Argentine-made films was even steeper: To 1.2 million from 11.6 million. In 1987, five of the top 10 films were Argentine. Last year, only two were.

As few as seven Argentine films will be made this year, compared to about 40 in 1986. Only successful directors like Subiela and Maria Luisa Bergere can arrange financing, much of which comes from other countries. Actors seek work overseas.

## Study finds no link between cancers, nuclear facilities

By Jill Lawrence  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A two-year government survey shows no increased risk of death from cancer for people living in or near areas with nuclear plants, the Department of Health and Human Services has said.

But the study's lead researcher cautioned that the survey methods did not permit an assessment of risks in more limited areas around a facility — one of the flaws cited by groups concerned about the health and environmental effects of nuclear power.

The mortality survey conducted by the National Cancer Institute (NCI) involved 107 U.S. counties containing or close to 62 nuclear facilities.

Those facilities include 52 commercial plants, nine Energy Department research and weapons plants and one commercial fuel-reprocessing plant. All began operation before 1982.

Cancer Institute researchers examined deaths from 16 types of cancer, including leukemia, the study said. Cancer death rates in the 107 counties with or near nuclear facilities were compared to cancer rates in a control group of 292 similar counties with no nuclear facilities nearby.

Some of the 107 counties had higher rates of certain cancers than the control counties and some had lower rates, either before or after the facilities came on line.

"There was no convincing evidence of any increased risk of death from any of the cancers we surveyed due to living near nuclear facilities," said John Boice, chief of NCI's radiation epidemiology

branch.

Starting in 1987, the NCI scientists surveyed more than 900,000 cancer deaths using county mortality records collected from 1950 to 1984. They evaluated changes in mortality rates for 16 types of cancer from 1950 to the date facility started operation, and from the start of operation until 1984. More than 1.8 million cancer deaths were studied in the 292 control counties.

Michael Mariotte, director of the Nuclear Information and Research Service, said his national network of 1,000 environmental groups considers the NCI research incomplete and misleading.

"Their methodology was not designed to find anything," Mariotte said.

Mariotte said cancer has a long latency period and victims don't die from it instantly.

"Most of these plants haven't been up long enough for people who have developed cancers to die from them," he said. "You have to look at the incidence of cancer rather than the mortality."

The other main problem, he said, is that the county-wide data does not specifically address the population most at risk — people living downwind of the plants. "These are the people where you would expect the maximum exposures," he said. "You really have to look at meteorological data."

The NCI survey was sparked by public concerns in the United States and a British survey that found elevated rates of childhood leukemia deaths near some British nuclear installations.

## Dramatic rise in number of allergy sufferers

By Karl Stankiewitz

CARPETS and wallpaper are taboo in Germany's first ecological clinic, a converted spa hotel at Inzell in the Bavarian Alps. Nothing is painted, glued or insulated. No flowers or plants are allowed — except for herbal teas.

Natural timber is used, untreated except for a coating of beeswax, and natural stone, ceramics and a little unbleached wool to create an allergen-free environment.

Environmental toxins are kept at bay as far as possible because the patients all suffer from the complex after-effects of substances in the air they breathe and the food and drink they consume.

Their bodies' allergic responses are frequently intensified by domestic tension or problems at work. An estimated 25 million (out of just over 60 million) Germans in the Federal Republic suffer from an allergy.

"Their number has increased drastically," says Hans-Peter Friedrichsen, the clinic's chief surgeon, "and few now doubt that environmental influences are to blame."

Dr. Friedrichsen heads the Veramed Clinic for Holistic Allergy Treatment and Environmental Medicine. It has 135 beds and at DM240 a day is less expensive than most special clinics. Most health insurance schemes pay its fees without question. The treatment is unusual from diagnosis onward.

In an inhalation chamber patients suffering from bronchial asthma of unknown origin are exposed to an air mixture including suspect substances from their accustomed domestic or job surroundings.

They might be carpet glue or furniture varnish or a cleansing agent. After half an

hour to an hour staff can tell whether the patient's lung activity has changed or skin has turned red.

In the air we breathe indoors there can be several hundred chemical substances, many of which are clearly harmful to health and can even cause cancer, Dr. Friedrichsen says, quoting surveys by U.S. environmental clinics where he worked for several years.

Inzell staff also carry out detective work in patients' digestive tracts and intestines to identify environmental allergens. The human skin has a surface area of two square metres, the lungs one of between 80 and 100 square metres. The mucous membranes of the digestive system cover an area of between 300 and 400 square metres.

Much greater attention and importance needs to be paid to food and to substances that can affect the body via the intestines, says Dr. Friedrichsen, who is founding president of the German Society for Environmental Medicine.

Oversensitive reactions to ordinary foods appear to be increasing. The clinic's insulation ward is completely germ-free. The rooms don't even have TV sets in case electromagnetic radiation causes harm. Sheets and towels are the only textiles. The 12 beds are made of metal. The air is filtered.

The holistic approach to treatment at Inzell pays constant attention to psychosocial care of patients. Desensitisation of the patient's body is not enough.

Group and individual discussions are helpful. So are autogenic training, biofeedback and, at times, hypnosis. But the only way to help allergy patients is often to rebuke them or replace all their furniture — Frankfurter Neue Presse.

## Operation Monica — a study on cholesterol

By Jean Chabrier

PARIS — The big American Framingham study, which, over the years, soundly demonstrated the role of the three major risk factors of cardio-vascular disease, the major cause of death in the world, began in 1948. These causes were shown to be arterial hypertension, smoking and cholesterol.

If there is no doubt about the first two of these elements, the same no longer applies for cholesterol. There is indeed an indisputable correlation between a high level of cholesterol and the frequency and seriousness of cardio-vascular incidents and the big campaigns aimed at informing the public are amply justifiable. But it is not quite so simple and a certain number of diverse facts have gradually led doctors and biologists to revise this slightly monolithic concept.

First of all, it had been forgotten rather too much that cholesterol, isolated by Pelleter in 1769, is the basic material for the partial synthesis of several vitamins and hormones (aldosterone, cortisol, sex hormones, etc.) and, as such, is indispensable to the organism.

Moreover, biologists have

been led to examine that "dustbin" of the organism more closely and to more clearly sort out the different lipoproteins making it up. It thus became possible to insist on the role of the "alpha" group, also known as HDL or "good cholesterol" which protects the vascular system. This led to a certain number of dietary notions being drawn up.

Then it was noted that the risk factors revealed by the Framingham study were increasingly called into question as statistical studies became more thorough. This raised the question, "can this study, carried out according to North American standards on a North-American population, be unreservedly extended to other countries?" This led to the huge undertaking of "Operation Monica" which began in 1985 on a European scale under the auspices of the World Health Organisation and will only be completed in 1995. Four centres are taking part.

It is only the beginning of the 6th year, but a certain number of original and sometimes astonishing conclusions are emerging. The first obvious fact is that the extrapolation of situations from one country to another is

quite risky and that astonishing disparities appear. For instance, bearing in mind the average incidence of risk worked out for each region, three times as many people die from coronary thrombosis in Northern Europe (Ireland, Scotland, Finland and Siberia) as in the southern crescent passing through Barcelona, Toulouse and Rome. In figures, there are 380 deaths for every 100,000 inhabitants in Belfast, 100 in Strasbourg, and 76 in Toulouse.

Yet there is no important difference in the average blood pressure and smoking. The total level of cholesterol shows an average of 2.38 grammes in Belfast and Toulouse and 2.18 in Strasbourg. The difference comes with the figures for the protective HDL cholesterol which comes to 0.52 in Toulouse and only 2.32 in Belfast. And yet one eats well in Toulouse and the food cannot be described as "poor"! It should be noted that a test for the level of HDL, an excellent indicator of heart risk is still not reimbursed by French Social Security.

Let us analyse the Toulouse diet factor more closely and that of heart attack victims. Generally speaking, and as such, is indispensable to the organism.

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A machine to obtain an electro-cardiogramme on the spot

And all the more so as, at the present stage of Operation Monica, other no less worrying effects appear. How can one explain that most studies show that, at any age, low

levels of cholesterol are

associated with an increased risk of cancer? Other studies reveal that with old people the risk of death is multiplied by 1.8 for those with the highest rates of cholesterol, but by 5.2 for those with the lowest rates? Identical facts are found on the level of cell biology both for the adaptive processes of brain cells and for the functions of immuno-competent cells. Many other

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# Middle East News

## Kaifu stresses diplomatic option

(Continued from page 1)

Tokyo has earmarked \$2 billion in assistance to Egypt, Jordan and Turkey — \$600 million in soft loans and the rest in loans, grants and technical cooperation — to help the three countries, which are the worst hit economically by the Gulf crisis.

Crown Prince Hassan explained to Kaifu Jordan's efforts to resolve the Gulf crisis through peaceful means based on international legitimacy, Petra said. He also briefed the prime minister on the economic problems facing all sectors of the Jordanian economy in view of the close relations the Kingdom had with both Iraq and Kuwait.

Kaifu voiced appreciation for Jordan's adherence to United Nations resolutions on the Gulf crisis despite the hardships facing the Kingdom. He affirmed that Tokyo intended to extend urgent assistance to Jordan in cooperation with international bodies to address the medium and long-term effects of the Gulf crisis on the Jordanian economy, Petra said.

Kaifu and Badran also held a for-

mal round of talks Wednesday. Petra said the meeting dealt with developments in the Gulf crisis and the two sides stressed the need to reach a peaceful solution to the crisis. They also called for an international peace conference on the Middle East and the implementation of Security Council resolutions. Badran explained to Kaifu Jordan's economic problems before and after the Gulf crisis. He also told Kaifu of the burden Jordan has had to bear to care for the thousands of refugees who fled to Jordan from Iraq and Kuwait and Jordan's compliance with U.N. sanctions. Kaifu expressed understanding of the Kingdom's difficult economic position.

Kaifu said Japan will extend assistance for economic and social development programmes in the country and continue work for achieving peace in the Middle East.

The talks were attended on the Jordanian side by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Salem Masa'deh and the ministers of state for prime ministry affairs and information. On the Japanese side, the deputy prime minister, the deputy foreign minister, and Japan's ambassador to Jordan attended the talks.

In his comments after meeting Kaifu in Cairo, Mubarak said he hoped the Japanese prime minister could convince Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait.

Moscow has so far refused to join the multinational force in the Gulf but has stepped up pressure on Iraq to leave Kuwait.

Before leaving Moscow, Primakov hoped to meet Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein when he arrived in Baghdad Thursday.

"There is a unique laboratory where we are testing our efforts to create a new world order after the end of the cold war," he told the influential weekly *Literaturnaya Gazeta*.

"Very much depends on Soviet-American solidarity, on parallel or joint political action, on mutual support," Primakov said in remarks published Wednesday.

The Soviet Union's highest-ranking general said Tuesday that the U.N. embargo against Iraq was working and urged that no force be used in the Gulf unless approved by the United Nations.

Speaking to reporters before a meeting with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, Shevardnadze said he was asked why Primakov, a member of Gorbatchev's presidential council, had been dispatched to Iraq.

"To arrange normal conditions for the withdrawal of Soviet citizens from that country. We have about 5,000 persons there," said Shevardnadze.

Shevardnadze said "some problems and difficulties" had arisen for Soviet citizens in Iraq. They include some 150 military personnel and several hundred more civilians working as military advisers to the Iraqi army.

Iraq has withheld exit permits for 870 oil industry workers in southern Iraq and 372 workers on the Yarsifa thermal power plant near Baghdad, a Soviet Foreign ministry spokesman said Tuesday.

He said 5,174 Soviet nationals remained in Iraq following the evacuation.

## Jordan shares Soviet view

(Continued from page 1)

Prime Minister Mu'ad Badran, Royal Court Crier Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and the King's political advisor Adman Abu Odeh.

In an arrival statement here, the Soviet envoy said his visit to Jordan was for consultations with the King on the outstanding issues of the region. The Soviet leadership, he said, "believes there is room for a political solution to the Gulf crisis."

Primakov was scheduled to fly to Baghdad Thursday for talks likely to focus on the fate of 5,000 Soviet citizens in Iraq.

In New York, Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and Primakov said on his way to Baghdad in a bid to arrange conditions for the evacuation of Soviet citizens from Iraq.

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## Iraq offers to free all French

(Continued from page 1)

plan to resolve the Gulf crisis and achieve Middle East peace had positive elements.

Mitterrand told the United Nations Sept. 25 that if Iraq withdraws from Kuwait "everything would be possible."

France denied Monday that it was engaged in any talks with Iraq or that Paris was offering to negotiate with Baghdad in return for a simple promise to quit Kuwait.

Mitterrand's spokesman said the president had stipulated the Iraqi troops must leave Kuwait before any talks could begin.

The spokesman, Hubert Vedrine, said the release of the nine Frenchmen would not alter France's demand that Iraq free all foreigners held as detainees against outside attack.

The nine Frenchmen said they were held at Baghdad hotels.

Hassan Hussein, from Madagascar, said he was held with 20 other Frenchmen at Baghdad's Novotel hotel.

of 536 women, 274 children and many specialists.

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## Iran to stay out of war

(Continued from page 1)

Military and political sources, including Soviet Chief of Staff General Mikhail Moiseyev and foreign Muslim leaders who visited Tehran last week, have said Iran might side with Iraq if war broke out.

IRNA quoted Velayati as saying that during his talks with foreign ministers in New York he had stressed Tehran's view that Gulf security should be looked by regional countries.

Iran announced resumption of ties with Britain, Tunisia and Mauritania during Velayati's stay in New York, where he also held a fence-mending meeting with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saad Al Faisal Sunday.

The newspaper Kayhan said there had been no decision to reestablish diplomatic relations with Cairo; broken 11 years ago because of Egypt's separate peace treaty with Israel.

"But Jordan has asked to establish ties with us and its request should be studied," it quoted Velayati as saying.

Jordan restored telephone and telex links with Iran last month after a 10-year break.

IRNA quoted Velayati as saying there had been no preconditions for the restoration of ties with Britain.

Relations were broken off in March 1989 in the furor over the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's death edict against British author Salman Rushdie for blasphemy in his novel "The Satanic Verses."

Iran had previously demanded the edict be rescinded before ties could be restored but Iranian leaders said the order was irrevocable.

After the announcement in New York, British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd said only that Iran had repeated its commitment not to interfere in Britain's internal affairs.

Hurdi's government said it was determined to end Aoun's "military." But analysis said the attack bolstered the general's public support and weakened that of Hrawi and the LF.

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## Baghdad defies the blockade

By Ali Massarwah  
in Baghdad

of the right to self-determination of the Palestinian people, including the right to establishing an independent state, and recognition of Israel's right to exist."

"There has been no change whatever in our desire to see a just, lasting and comprehensive solution to this issue along these lines. Each international dispute must be settled in a fair and peaceful manner," the prime minister said. "Thus, the present efforts by the international community to implement Resolution 661 (calling for sanctions on Iraq) are in that very spirit of a fair and peaceful settlement of the present crisis in the Gulf."

In his comments after meeting Kaifu in Cairo, Mubarak said he hoped the Japanese prime minister could convince Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait.

Mubarak, in a departure from his more hawkish approach to the crisis, said he was still hoping for a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis.

The Egyptian president said Japan had offered "a good programme" to help Egypt which would be followed by another package.

Mubarak said he supported Japan's decision to assist Jordan and immediately aid despite what he described as America's "differences with the community" in the crisis. He said Jordan was in need of immediate economic aid "because it has really been hurt" by the Gulf crisis.

"I fully support aid to Jordan, because it has suffered losses. Political differences may exist with Jordan... but this does not mean that we should oppose assistance to it. It did suffer," Mubarak said.

On the contrary, the hostile measures taken by the United States and other Western countries has, if anything, boosted the morale of the people of Baghdad who consider themselves the avant-garde of the new "Arab awakening."

Iraqis feel they have a just cause which is worth fighting for, and many contend that taking a firm nationalist stand goes hand in hand with enduring the resulting hardships.

"During the Gulf war, life in Baghdad was, in a sense, paradoxical: living standards greatly improved and food was always abundant. Now that we face this vicious Zionist-imperialist threat, people in the city are willing to take belt-tightening measures and cut down on food consumption — this is only natural in a state of war," a shopkeeper in the vegetable market near Al Hurriya Bridge said.

He said he had relayed Iran's "deep concern" to Britain over the case of Mahradah Kokabi, an Iranian student jailed in Britain since last December for attempting to firebomb a London bookshop selling "The Satanic Verses."

In a statement this week, an Iranian committee campaigning on Kokabi's behalf urged Britain to release him as a sign of goodwill.

Velayati said the case of Roger Cooper, a Briton arrested on spying charges in 1985, was a judicial matter unrelated to Iran's foreign policy.

He said he had relayed Iran's "deep concern" to Britain over the case of Mahradah Kokabi, an Iranian student jailed in Britain since last December for attempting to firebomb a London bookshop selling "The Satanic Verses."

While the crowd cheered, Puente, two angry male relatives of the dead ran past the flag-draped coffins and army guards to where Beshara and other churchmen stood at a makeshift altar.

"Why didn't he (Puente) come here himself? You can't read his letter," they shouted, waving their arms. Beshara then read his own speech praising the dead as "martyrs."

Organizers of the service in this east Beirut suburb later appealed over loudspeakers for calm.

Arabs supporters say Puente and Maronite Patriarch Béchara Rizk failed to back the general in his year-long power struggle with Hrawi, whom Aoun refused to recognize.

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Iraqi women train with the people's army

war has strengthened Iraq militarily and has boosted Iraq morale, in addition to the long-standing Iraqi tradition of no bowing to outside pressure, explained to some degree the reason behind Iraq's position in the current crisis.

The impressive monument to the martyrs of Saddam's Qadisiya, established in the memory of Iraqi soldiers killed in the 8-year-war with Iran, the famous splendor of Baghdad's ancient mosques and churches the thousand year old Mustansiriya University and the numerous museums and other historic landmarks have soared to unprecedented heights, according to Iraqis interviewed.

"No matter what happens, whether the U.S. attacks with nuclear bombs, or if I and my children were to starve, Iraq will always follow its great leader Saddam Hussein," a shopkeeper in Souq Al Safa said.

This readiness of Iraqis to sacrifice themselves and their country for what they feel is a just cause may come as a surprise to foreign observers, but the fact that the outcome of the Iraq-Iran

landmark and hegemony of foreign powers in the Arab land.

## Qatari soldier becomes long distance king at Asian Games

PEKING (R) — Qatari soldier Mohammed Sulaiman established himself Wednesday as Asia's premier long-distance runner, winning a second gold medal and bringing the Asian Games athletics competition to a classy finale.

The day was enlivened by China's relay teams in the men's and women's 4x 100 metres. They ran around the track carrying their national flag to roars of approval from spectators celebrating their country's dominance in athletics over the past seven days.

They easy relay victories swelled China's gold medal tally in track and field to 29 out of a total 43 at stake.

But China allowed the tiny Middle East kingdom of Qatar to steal the limelight for a third time by winning a glamour event.

Sulaiman, who took the 1,500 metres Saturday, ran a tactically brilliant race Wednesday in only his second attempt at the 5,000 metres at international level.

The 21-year-old stayed behind the leaders for most of the race, letting Japan's Koichi Morishita and China's Zhang Guowei set the pace.

It was not until the last bend that Morishita broke away, only to be overtaken by Sulaiman just 10 metres from the finish. Morishita fought back and dived for the finish line, but could not prevent the Qatari from winning in a new games record time of 13 minutes 50.22 seconds.

"I didn't believe I could win this event (5,000 metres) until I took the 1,500 metres," said 21-year-old Sulaiman.

Czechoslovak coach Stanislav Strohli described his Qatari ward as an exciting prospect who could have the potential of Morocco's great distance star, Said Ouita.

Like the Moroccan long-distance star, Sulaiman spends much of his time training in Europe with a band of Qatari, all of whom are employed in the army in Qatar.

Strohli said Sulaiman had started serious training only a year ago, but was now put

through a rigorous weight and sprint programme in Europe, chiefly in St Moritz, Switzerland.

His last win was in the Budapest Grand Prix in August.

Qatar won its first gold medal with a win by Talal Mansoor in the games' centrepiece event — the 100 metres — Friday and picked up a silver in the 400 metres through Ibrahim Mustafa.

Pakistan was another underdog country that won a gold medal Wednesday, unexpectedly snatching a 400 metres hurdles victory through policeman Ghulam Abbas. He dived for the finish to edge out South Korean Hwang Hong-Chul. China's Gao Hongsheng was third.

The time was behind the Asian Games record of 20.71 seconds set by South Korea's Chang Jae-Kyun in Seoul four years ago. Chang Wednesday could only finish seventh.

South Korea got its share of glory in the 800 metres in which Kim bong-Yon and Ryu Tae-Kyung took gold and silver blocking out their rivals in a bruising race.

Ryu, the South Korean number one, said he had been jostled by rivals thinking he was the runner to beat. This left the field clear for Kim to win in one minute 49.43 seconds, two and half seconds slower than the men's record.

Zheng denied using the rough tactics, but it was clear the two Chinese had boxed in Burma's valiant Khin Khinhtwe in the final bend before the sprint to the finish. Zheng won in four minutes, 23.11 seconds.

Syrian boxer gets gold

Syrian boxer Ahmadmayz Khanji set aside artistic concerns and pummelled his Japanese opponent to win his country's first gold medal at the Asian Games Wednesday.

Khanji, gold medallist at the Mediterranean Games in 1987

points. She pushed veteran team-

mate Dong Yiping, competing with a damaged knee, into second place, but failed to break her own Asian record of 6.306.

The 200 metres saw Susumu Takano, once ranked among the fastest in the world in the 400 metres, switch successfully to the shorter event. He held off fast-finishing Sri Lankan Sivayana to win the gold medal in 20.94. Sivayana clocked 21.17 seconds and China's Zhao Canlin was third in 21.28 seconds.

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Hwang, who slipped down once early in the round, sagged under the punishing blows.

He tried to get up in vain. The referee stopped the fight.

"We studied the tapes of (Hwang's) previous fights," said Philippine coach Reynaldo Fortaleza. "We knew that one punch would do it."

The victory makes a nice wed-

ding present for Jahnai, who plans to tie the knot later this year.

## Edberg, Lendl move to 3rd round at Australian indoor

SYDNEY, Australia (AP) — World number one Stefan Edberg of Sweden and Ivan Lendl of Czechoslovakia each scored second-round victories Wednesday in the \$1 million Australian Indoor Tennis Championship.

Edberg downed compatriot Niclas Kroon 6-3, 6-2 while Woodbridge stunned No. 4 seed Brad Gilbert of the United States 7-6 (7-7), 6-3 after Gilbert had nine set points in the first set.

Haarhuis ousted No. 12 seed Derrick Rostagno of the United States 6-3 (7-3), 6-4, while Kahnase eased past No. 7 seed Richard Fromberg of Australia 7-6 (7-4), 6-2.

Lendl breezed through the first set against an aggressive Kahnase in just 22 minutes, but needed almost two hours to clinch the

round of 16.

Wheaton beat Australian qualifier Sandon Stolle 4-6, 6-2 while Woodbridge stunned No. 4 seed Brad Gilbert of the United States 7-6 (7-7), 6-3 after Gilbert had nine set points in the first set.

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Ninth-seeded American David Wheaton and unseeded trio Paul Haarhuis of the Netherlands, Todd Woodbridge of Australia and Patrick Kahnase of West Germany also progressed to the

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## Algeria gives priority to clear debt arrears

ALGIERS (R) — Algeria will use an oil price windfall from the Gulf crisis to clear \$600 million in international debt arrears owed by public and private Algerian firms this year, Economy Minister Ghazi Hedouci said Wednesday.

He told a news conference repayment of the arrears, accumulated throughout the 1980s, was a priority to reestablish Algeria's credit rating on international markets.

"The first axis of our return to financial health is to pay the totality of arrears of whatever nature, public or private firms... through December 1990s," he said.

Algeria, almost entirely dependent on oil and gas revenue for hard currency, will reap \$700 million above previously projected income this year assuming average world oil prices of \$26 a barrel, Hedouci said.

World oil prices had more than doubled since Iraq's takeover of Kuwait, to 10-year highs of around \$40 a barrel last week, but have since fallen back to around \$35.

A government report last week put the windfall at more than \$1.4 billion, apparently based on a higher average price.

The arrears were mainly incurred by Algerian state companies on trading and construction contracts with foreign firms.

About one-third of the arrears are owed to French firms, including large chunks to Air France and the construction giant Bouygues, diplomats said.

Hedouci said Algeria hoped to be able to regain its triple-A rating on international credit markets by the end of 1991.

The country was downgraded as a result of falling oil and gas income in the last half of the 1980s and social unrest including October 1988 youth riots that prompted sweeping liberal political and economic reform.

### AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

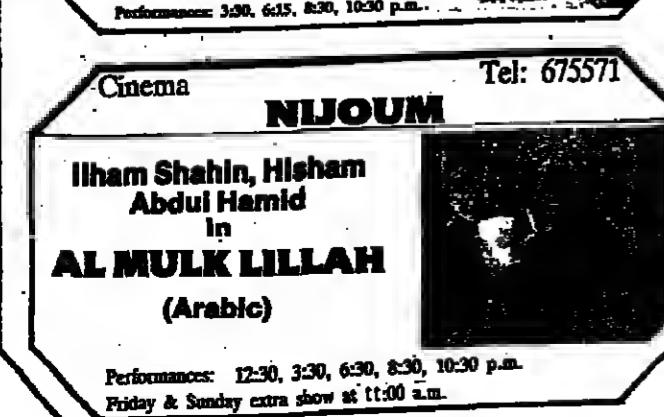
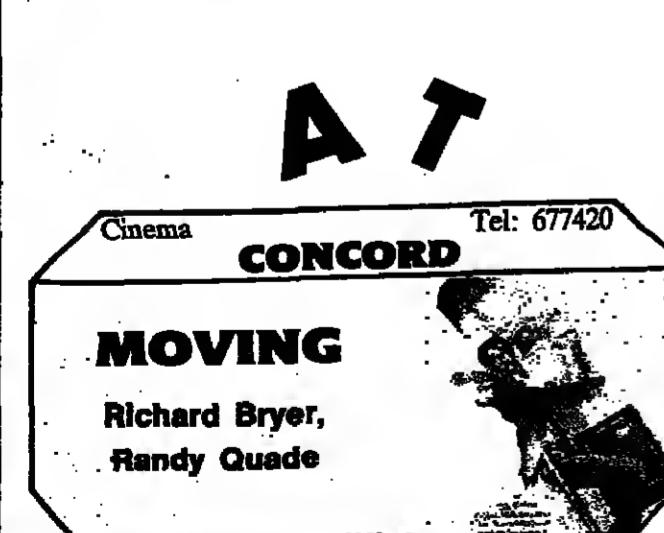
Wednesday, October 3, 1990			
Central Bank official rates			
Buy	Sell	French franc	126.0 126.8
U.S. dollar	654.0 658.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	479.1 482.0
Pound Sterling	1237.1 1244.5	Dutch guilder	374.4 376.6
Deutschmark	422.1 424.6	Swedish crown	114.4 115.7
Swiss franc	508.1 511.1	Italian lira (for 100)	26.4 26.7
		Belgian franc (for 10)	204.1 203.3

### LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One Sterling	1.8910/20	U.S. dollar	1.1525/35
One U.S. dollar	1.1525/35	Canadian dollar	1.5515/20
	1.5515/20	Deutschmarks	1.7435/95
	1.7435/95	Dutch guilders	1.2915/25
	1.2915/25	Swiss francs	31.9297
	31.9297	Belgian francs	5.1950/2000
	5.1950/2000	French francs	1161/1163
	1161/1163	Italian lire	136.65/75
	136.65/75	Japanese yen	5.7195/7245
	5.7195/7245	Swedish crowns	6.0200/50
	6.0200/50	Norwegian crowns	5.9250/9300
	5.9250/9300	Danish crowns	One ounce of gold
	388.50/389.00	U.S. dollars	388.50/389.00

**TODAY**



### ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

#### Rafidain Bank hoists interest rates

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq's largest commercial bank has increased interest rates on fixed deposit and savings accounts, the Iraqi News Agency (INA) reported. The agency, in its domestic service, said the Rafidain Bank had raised its rates from seven to 10 per cent on fixed deposits and from six to nine per cent for savings accounts. Rafidain is one of only three Iraqi banks, all owned by the government. More than 600 billion dinars (\$3.2 billion at the official rate) are held in deposit accounts, preferred by Iraqis as a way of guaranteeing a stable and higher income.

#### Share trading in Iran soars

NICOSIA (R) — Shares worth more than 16.4 billion riyals (\$240 million) were traded on the Tehran stock exchange in the past six months, seven times the total in the same period last year, Tehran radio reported. It said just under 3.5 million shares were traded in the half-year to Sept. 22, a rise of 333 per cent from 1989. The exchange was revived last year as part of President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani's plan to stimulate the private sector's role in reviving Iran's economy after the 1980-88 war with Iraq. Seventy-six companies, including cement, food and textile factories, are registered at the exchange and applications of 14 others are pending, said the radio, monitored in Nicosia.

#### Tunisia sets speed limits to save fuel

TUNIS (R) — Tunisia, facing rising fuel bills because of the Gulf crisis, has imposed a maximum speed of 90 kilometres an hour on its main roads as part of a programme to save energy. The plan, adopted by various ministries, limits street lighting hours and the use of air conditioning in government offices. The use of natural gas will also be encouraged to save petrol and diesel oil. Tunisia exported 4.7 million tonnes of crude oil in 1989 but had to import 3.4 million tonnes of refined petroleum products because of its limited refining capacity.

#### Bundesbank issues new banknotes

FRANKFURT (AP) — The West German central bank, the Bundesbank, has issued new 100 and 200 mark banknotes that it says are virtually impossible to forge. The notes also have an imprint that makes them readable to blind people. The Bundesbank said the new notes will replace old money over a period of two years. The 200-mark note is introduced for the first time.

#### Manila to get U.S. credit, aid

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Philippines will get \$125 million in aid and loans tied to the purchase of U.S. exports, officials have announced. The U.S. Export-Import Bank (Exim Bank) will guarantee \$81.25 million in loans by commercial lenders and provide a \$13.75 million grant from its tied aid credit fund. The aid is to be used to finance and buy materials for power, telecommunications, construction and transportation projects. The loans and grants are the result of a study last year that indicated that the export credit agencies of Japan, Britain, France, Canada and other countries were focusing large amounts of tied aid on such projects.

## Mubarak enacts law on banking secrecy

CAIRO (AP) — President Hosni Mubarak decreed Tuesday a law allowing secrecy in the banks of Egypt, the state-run Middle East News Agency reported.

The agency said in addition to allowing secret accounts, the law prohibits release of information about accounts to anyone except depositors or their legal agents.

It said the new law was published in the government's Official Gazette. Under the constitution, presidential decrees issued during recess of the People's Assembly, Egypt's parliament, must be approved once the parliament reconvenes.

Under the presidential decree, bank secrecy can be broken only by the order of the Cairo Court of Appeals, which has judicial authority over all of Egypt.

The legislation also allows the opening of numbered accounts, in which depositors' names are known only to specified bank officials.

Certain conditions have to be met by depositors wishing to hold secret accounts, the decree says. It gives the ministers of economy and foreign trade and the governor of the central bank authority to set the conditions, the Middle East News Agency said.

The central bank's administrative board will decide which banks will be licensed to practice secret banking, according to the presidential decree.

The law was issued to attract foreign investment to Egypt to help pay its foreign debt of around \$50 billion. It also seeks to encourage Egyptians working abroad and other Arabs to entrust their money to Egypt's banks.

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The law was issued to attract foreign investment to Egypt to help pay its foreign debt of around \$50 billion. It also seeks to encourage Egyptians working abroad and other Arabs to entrust their money to Egypt's banks.

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## Iraqi threat directly hits Israeli tourism

TAL AVIV (R) — Tourism, Israel's biggest foreign currency earner, has taken a direct hit from the undeclared war in the Gulf.

Jerusalem hotels say they have far fewer foreign guests than usual and virtually no reservations from mid-October to the end of November.

American Jews, the mainstay of tourism in Israel, are either cancelling or leaving earlier than planned.

And, say Israeli businessmen, an army decision to distribute gas masks in response to Iraqi chemical warfare threats will only make a bad situation worse.

"It's simply inconceivable," Moshe Amir, head of Israel's hotel association, told Israel radio Tuesday.

He said Israel, despite having a strong army, was behaving "like a ghetto community that is helpless and is expecting the holocaust."

"With an image like this, there is no chance tourists will come," he added.

Israel has developed a major tourism business that brings in more income and foreign currency.

### Oman to boost oil production

NICOSIA (R) — Oman will boost its oil output to 700,000 barrels per day (b/d) over the rest of this year from 650,000 before Iraq's invasion of Kuwait two months ago, the official Omani news agency said Wednesday. It quoted an official report as saying 84 new fields came on stream in 1989, taking the total in production to 1,186 and boosting output by 3.5 per cent compared with 1988, to just over 640,000 b/d.

The agency received in Cyprus, said the further increase in output had been decided in cooperation with OPEC.

### Bush calls on Americans to support budget plan

WASHINGTON (AP) — President George Bush wants Americans to convince skittish lawmakers that hacking a \$50 billion budget package won't cost them reelection, even though it requires taxpayers to shoulder a small burden.

"I'm not, and I know you're not, a fan of tax increases," Bush said in a nationally televised address Tuesday night.

"But if there have to be tax measures, they should allow the economy to grow. They should not turn us back to higher income tax rates, and they should be fair," he added, referring to the proposed tax increases on gasoline, cigarettes, boats, liquor and fur.

Many lawmakers already are shunning the package because it will hit Americans hard in the wallet, a fact that could reverberate when voters go to the polls next month.

A congressional study released Tuesday said the poor would be hit hardest by the package and the rich would feel its increases the least. The plan's increased taxes and reduced benefits would take an average two per cent of the earnings of one-fifth of Americans with the lowest incomes, according to the survey by the House Ways and Means Committee.

In a third straight day of public and private lobbying for the agreement worked out by his aides and congressional leaders, the president was meeting Wednesday with journalists from around the country.

Bush offered a rapid defence of the plan in his brief speech Tuesday night, saying, "I cannot claim it's the best deficit reduction plan possible. It's not... but it is the best agreement that can be legislated."

The country, frankly, is at stake here," he said.

Apparently referring to his violation of his "no new taxes" campaign pledge and his failure to get a capital gains tax cut, Bush said, "I don't want to sound sanctimonious about this, but I was elected to govern."

Speaking for the Democratic leadership, senate majority leader George Mitchell echoed the president, saying, "this package is a compromise. Neither side got what it wanted."

### More Poles support far-reaching reforms

WARSAW (AP) — As Soviet lawmakers were approving a radical plan to rescue their collapsing economy, a survey showed Poles are increasingly satisfied with their own far-reaching reform programme begun Jan. 1.

More than one in three Poles supports the unprecedented economic reform plan to transform the former centrally planned economy into a free market system, according to a September opinion poll published by the Gazeta Wyborcza daily.

The survey conducted by the state polling agency showed that after eight months of the so-called Balcerekowicz plan, 34.8 per cent supported the policy, about nine percentage points over July results. The plan is named after its main architect, Deputy Prime Minister Leszek Balcerekowicz.

Meanwhile, the number of people who do not accept the plan, 21 per cent, is the lowest since March.

Others said they did not know much about the plan or had no

opinion.

The centre for polling public opinion also registered growing approval for Balcerekowicz himself — with 54.3 per cent saying he is doing a good job, compared to 45.3 in July.

Gazeta called some of poll's results "surprising." For instance, many respondents said production and quality improvement had increased because of the reform plan, even though official statistics show a 20 per cent drop in industrial production.

More than 70 per cent favour privatisation of state-owned industries, a process government officials hope will create new jobs. More than 800,000 Poles are unemployed.

The centre's poll is conducted with about 1,000 respondents nationwide and have a three per cent margin of error.

### APARTMENT FOR RENT

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## Nationalists, police clash in Kiev

MOSCOW (AP) — Nationalist demonstrators clashed with police in front of the parliament building in the Ukrainian capital of Kiev, and several people were injured, according to press reports.

It was the third such demonstration in as many days in Kiev, but it was the first time violence was reported.

The incident occurred one day after the conservative majority in parliament voted to uphold a decree banning rallies in front of the parliament building. Opposition members of the parliament walked out of Monday's session in protest.

In Tuesday's demonstration, hundreds of people marched to the building and called for the dissolution of parliament, the resignation of the government and the Ukraine's secession from the Soviet Union, the Soviet News Agency TASS reported.

Many in the crowd carried the nationalist blue and gold flag. Protesters then clashed with police, and there were several injuries, TASS said. There were no additional details.

The nationalist Rukh Movement reported that several dozen

demonstrators tried to break through police barricades, leading to the violence. Several people were beaten, it said, and one policeman was injured.

It quoted a 77-year-old woman identified as Perohija Pital as saying she was hit with a truncheon and suffered a cut and bruised nose.

Rukh blamed the violence on unidentified "provocateurs," but it also quoted an unidentified nationalist sympathizer as saying, "there was fault on both sides."

Inside the parliament, Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk said Monday's general strike in the republic had failed, TASS reported. Kravchuk, one of the objects of the protesters' anger, thanked Ukrainian workers for their cooperation and civic spirit, the official news agency said.

Some members of parliament demanded that a commission be formed to investigate the violence outside, TASS reported. Rukh said the entire afternoon session was devoted to the issue, and quoted deputy Pavlo Movchan as saying that the decision to limit access to the square outside parliament "will only increase ten-

sions and lead to further confrontation."

Meanwhile, Lithuania and the Soviet Union agreed Tuesday to conduct their economic and trade relations for 1991 as equal partners, in a further stride toward independence for the Baltic republics.

The first step has been taken, and it was a major step, and we did not lose our bearings," Lithuania's President Vytautas Landsbergis told a news conference after the Kremlin meeting.

The talks, headed on the Soviet side by Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov, were the first at such a high level since Lithuania suspended its March 11 declaration of independence following the Kremlin's economic embargo.

According to the communiqué, the delegations "agreed that their further activities will be conducted according to bilateral trade and economic relations for the year 1991."

Lithuanian Prime Minister Kazimieras Prunskienė explained the agreement would mean "closer economic cooperation" with the Soviet Union, based on more of a partnership principle, rather than the previous practice of a republic's rigid subordination to the central government.

Asked whether the Kremlin

## More Rwandans join invasion force

KAMPALA (R) — Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni expressed surprise Wednesday at the large number of Rwandan refugees deserting Uganda's army to join an invasion force into neighbouring Rwanda.

Government sources said Tuesday that 500 heavily-armed Rwandan refugees led by a senior officer in the Ugandan army had invaded Rwanda in an attempt to topple the government of the tiny central African state.

Museveni told the New Vision daily in an interview from the United States where he attended a U.N. summit on children that the ranks of the invaders, who crossed the border Sunday, had been swelled by more desertions from the Ugandan army.

"We have been taken aback by the scale and rapidity of the desertions," he said.

But sources close to the government in Uganda dismissed as "vastly exaggerated" a statement from a Rwandan Defense Ministry official which estimated the invading force at between 5,000 and 10,000 men.

Rwandan President Juvenal Habyarimana was also at the United Nations in New York when the attack took place. He is cutting short his stay and returning home because of the crisis.

Unconfirmed reports in the Ugandan capital, Kampala, said Rwandan refugees in Tanzania had rallied to the banner of the invading force led by Major-General Fred Rwigema.

In Rwanda, a dusk to dawn curfew has been imposed.

An official there, identified as Colonel Rusastira, told Radio France Internationale the invading force was 5,000 to 10,000 strong and had already begun to advance.

"That figure is impossible. It would be the same size as the entire armed forces of Rwanda," a diplomat in Kampala told Reuters.

"It would have been impossible for them to organise that many men without the Ugandan government finding out."

## Bomb explodes at U.S. envoy's home in Pretoria

JOHANNESBURG (R) — A home-made bomb exploded at the Pretoria home of the U.S. ambassador to South Africa, William Swing, early Wednesday, police said.

They said no one was injured in the blast which damaged a gate post and a garden shed.

Swing was not at home when the bomb went off — a week after South African President F.W. de Klerk returned from a visit to the United States and talks with President George Bush.

A police spokesman told reporters no suspects had yet been identified.

The bomb went off at the residence in Pretoria's plush Waterkloof suburb at 1 a.m. (2300 GMT Tuesday), but embassy security staff reported the incident seven hours later, police said.

A U.S. consulate spokesman said: "A small explosive device was detonated early Wednesday outside the rear gate of the compound containing the U.S. ambassador's residence."

"There was slight damage to the gate, there were no injuries."

He said no one had claimed responsibility for the explosion.

Home-made bombs using commercial explosives have in the past often been the work of white

supremacists opposing De Klerk's reform plans.

They resent U.S. sanctions aimed at forcing the country to scrap apartheid.

Anti-apartheid guerrillas have tended to use Soviet-made limpet mines in bomb attacks.

Meanwhile Zulu leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi said Tuesday he rejected a meeting with Nelson Mandela because the former would fail to stop savage faction fighting that has killed hundreds.

Mandela's African National Congress (ANC), the largest black opposition movement, had invited Buthelezi and other leaders of black tribal homelands to a meeting Friday to discuss violence that erupted on Aug. 12 in black townships around Johannesburg.

The meeting was considered a possible breakthrough in efforts to halt the carnage, which has mostly pitted Xhosa and other blacks linked to the ANC against Zulu supporters of the Inkatha Movement, which Buthelezi also heads.

But Buthelezi had said he would reject attempts to portray him solely as the Zulu homeland leader instead of Inkatha leader. He also wanted a one-on-one meeting with Mandela before the Friday meeting.

## COLUMN

### Chinese-S. Korean romance survives obstacles

PEKING (R) — A table tennis love match between a South Korean Romeo and a Chinese Juliet has become a symbol of warming relations between the two countries, one of the main themes of the Asian Games. Overcoming family and diplomatic obstacles and the lack of a common language, retired table tennis stars Ahn Jae-Hyung and Jiao Zimin married last October and have become a big attraction at the games. "Before, I believed it was impossible to marry," said Ahn, 26, dressed in the blue and white track suit of the South Korean team he once played for. "There were just too many obstacles. But we have done it," he said in an interview in a Peking hotel, speaking the Chinese he has been studying since the wedding. The couple, who live in Seoul, are in Peking as part of Jiao's job covering sport for a South Korean newspaper. The two first met at an international table tennis competition in Pakistan in 1984. They met again in 1985 and the romance began to blossom with an exchange of presents. Because there were no direct mail links between the two countries, letters had to be carried by friends and team members. "When I told my mother, she became very agitated and could not sleep," Jiao said. "She said there were so many men in China. She was nervous about my living in a foreign country and asked what would happen if my husband decided he did not want me." She said her family, who live in the far north province of Heilongjiang where her father is a businessman, were impressed by Ahn when they met him. Her manager did not oppose the romance as long as it did not affect her playing. Jiao retired after winning a bronze medal at the Seoul Olympics in 1988 and the two married in Stockholm last October. They then had a traditional Korean wedding ceremony in the Olympic village in Seoul and Jiao became a South Korean citizen.

### 'Lost' Mozart manuscript to be auctioned

LONDON (R) — A manuscript of two of Mozart's finest piano works, presumed lost until it was found in the United States, will be auctioned in London next month.

Official fireworks then erupted over the nearby Brandenburg gate, complementing the whining streaks of Roman candles fired by revellers and three special spotlights that crisscrossed the heavens above the Reichstag.

Soaring strains of Beethoven and other German composers rolled over the multitude for a half hour, providing an incongruous soundtrack to the spectacle of police pending off merrymakers crowding the stage.

For the wee hours of spontaneous merrymaking ahead, the city's AIDS-help office handed out free condoms.

Germany became one nation Wednesday, but it was clear that its inhabitants are still two people.

For West Germans, the celebration was pure, a victory. But for East Germans, it was tinged with angst. Many are now out of work — or will be soon — and must find a way to fit into a foreign society.

Harun Giese watched the scene from nearby Potsdamer Platz, the once-bustling main square of old Berlin reduced a muddy field by the Berlin Wall.

"This was overdone, all of this merrymaking," said the 46-year-old East German, a teacher at a machinists trade school.

"But we need things like this to bring us together, to give us something to share," he said. "Even children in kindergartens here think in terms of communism, closed borders. Everything is still new."

Giese said his 19-year-old daughter was a dissident during the old days and was relentlessly harassed by the Communist secret police. He said she now lives in West Germany.

"It was hard for us," he said. Standing not too far away, with his wife and two children, was Wolf Glaeser, an employee for the East German airline Interflug. He said he's losing his job by year's end.

"I came for the fireworks," he said. "Unity is so-so. There are just too many economic problems for me."

East Berlin's main avenue, the broad Unter Den Linden, was a surging tide of shoulder-to-shoulder celebrants who flowed from one side of downtown to the other.

## Fate of Chinese hijack victims veiled in secrecy and confusion

CANTON, China (R) — Confusion, secrecy and distress Wednesday marked China's handling of its worst air disaster in a decade.

Anxious relatives wept as officials refused to reveal the whereabouts or fate of passengers still unaccounted for after a hijacked Chinese airliner crashed in flames into two parked planes at Canton's Baiyin (White Cloud) Airport Tuesday.

Chinese officials said 127 people died when the hijacked Boeing 737 exploded on landing and plunged into a fully-laden 707 waiting to take off for Shanghai and 707.

The special handling committee set up in Canton to cope with the aftermath of the crash rejected pleas from relatives for information on whether missing passengers were in the mortuary or in hospital.

"We are going to visit every hospital looking for our missing relatives," said one distraught

Canton woman as she stormed out of the committee's temporary offices in the Yunshan Hotel more than 15 hours after the crash. "The officials will do nothing for us. We are better alone."

More than 12 hours later officials finally handed out lists of the dead and injured. One man broke down and wept, and the distraught woman fainted.

Officials at the United States consulate delivered a diplomatic note requesting a passenger list but did not receive a copy of the hand-written document for several hours after reporters had obtained copies and then only after Chinese officials had turned away one consulate driver empty handed.

Relatives who did reach hospitals were in many cases turned away and medical authorities refused to divulge the identity of patients.

Erin Thomas of Oklahoma in the United States was conscious and talking a few hours after she was pulled from the burning

## Senate approves Souter for Supreme Court

WASHINGTON (AP) — David H. Souter, a reserved and little-known jurist, has been approved as the replacement for the Supreme Court's leading liberal.

The Senate Wednesday voted 90-9 to approve Souter, the first Supreme Court nominee of President George Bush. At age 51, Souter potentially could spend decades on the high court, where justices frequently serve to an advanced age.

William H. Brennan, whom Souter replaces, resigned.

There was little doubt Souter would be a more conservative justice than Brennan. But Souter's position on social issues, including abortion, is harder to predict.

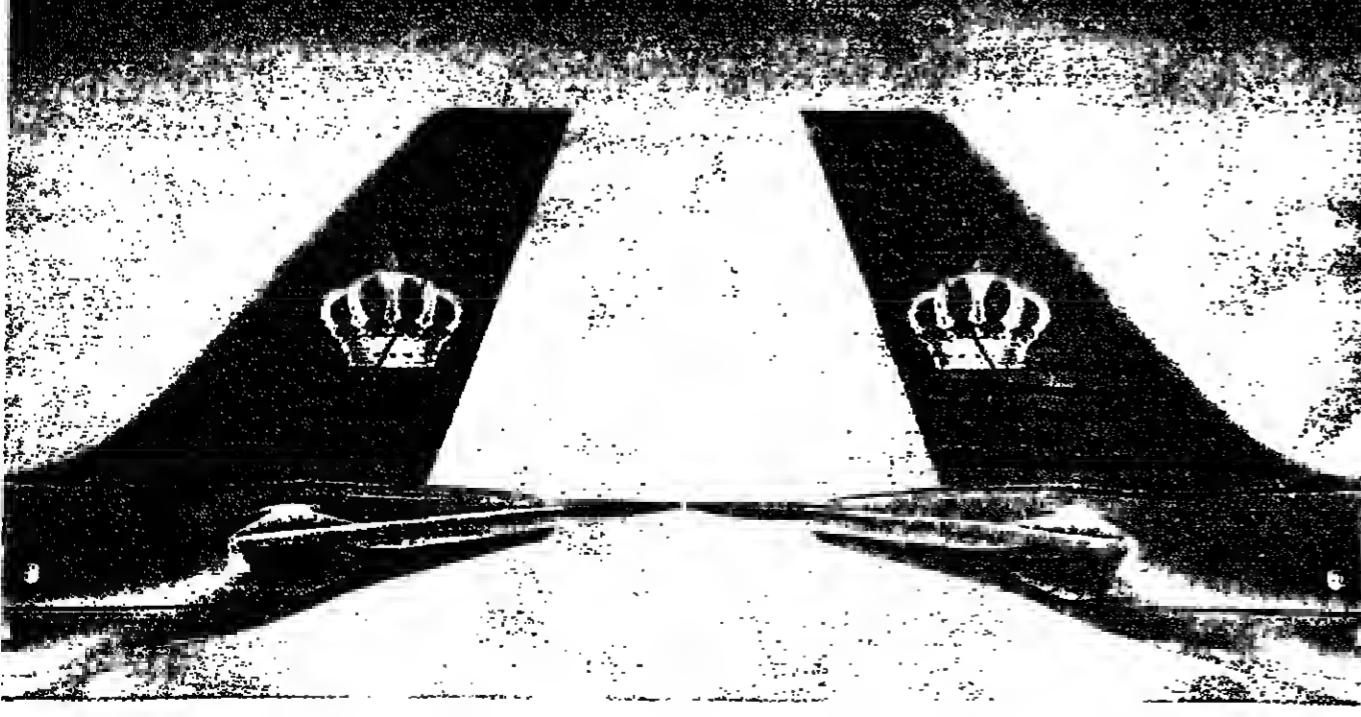
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## Unity spectacle recalls German past, but message is different

BERLIN (Agencies) — Spotlights and fireworks stroking the midnight sky, thunderous swells of Beethoven and flags and torchlights waving before a monument of past reichs ushered in German unification Wednesday.

But if the overpowering atmosphere of unity's flagship fest at the Reichstag building in Berlin may have recalled the showmanship of Germany's national past, there was none of the old self-glorification — "Deutschland ueber alles."

The hundreds of thousands gathered on the Platz Der Republik before the Reichstag cheered their new oneness loud and often and a sea of red-black-gold flags and torchlight shimmered over the throng.

But there were virtually no hints of Germany's aggressive history — imperial eagle flags, placards with "Germany first" slogans or rightist disturbances.

The faces in the crowd were those of a calmer young generation who said the big bust was all about a happily remastered nation dedicated to living at peace with neighbours, not lording it over them.

"We want to serve peace in the world in a united Europe," President Richard von Weizsaecker told the throng in a much applauded address from the Reichstag's open-air stage.

Organisers had feared that neo-Nazi gangs intent on greeting unification as the dawn of a fourth reich would try to disrupt ceremonies and spread an ominous first image of unification abroad.

But they never showed up, possibly daunted by a huge mobilisation of riot police throughout central Berlin.

"Those neo-fascists don't reflect what the vast majority of Germans today feel," said Jutta

Reis, a 43-year-old West German who was enthusiastically waving a torch.

"We think it's super that the whole world is looking at Berlin again. We waited 40 long years to come together. But foreigners who say the world should start fearing the Germans again are just wrong," she said. "We want to be a normal country living with the rest."

A typical banner read: "I'm happy about Germany. Never again socialism." Another said: "Thank you Helmut for unity," a tribute to West German Chancellor Kohl who was greeted with chants of "Helmut, Helmut" on his arrival.

Ingo Sobotka, a 24-year-old East German said: "We're a different generation that wants to go forward, not backward to the attitudes that brought calamity to the world."

He was referring to two world wars started by previous incarnations of a united Germany.

The Reichstag fire was marred only briefly by scores of revellers who broke through police lines and tried to clamber on the dignitaries' stage, provoking security men to fire warning shots in the air. The crowd quickly retreated.

As the clock ticked the final minutes to midnight, the Reichstag throng — bathed in floodlights — began to roar in anticipation. Countless beads of torchlight shimmered in the damp, nippy autumn air as church bells around the city began chiming, their sound piped in on loudspeakers.

Fourteen youths — seven each from East and West Germany — emerged below the stage holding a 60-square-metre tricoloured flag like a huge bed sheet.

An orchestra played the "Deutschlandlied" (Song of Germany) as the flag was hoisted to

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